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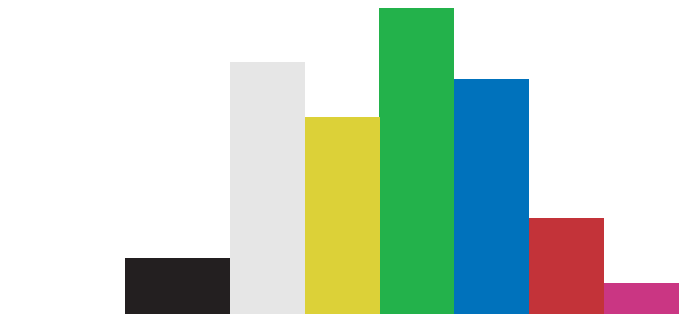

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Celebrity pg 31

Elton John lends helping hand

Dubai tower rises above the rest

ARCHITECTURE Dubai is set to open the world's tallest building amid tight security today, celebrating the tower as a bold feat on the world stage despite the city state's shaky financial footing.

But the final height of the Burj Dubai — Arabic for Dubai Tower — remained a closely guarded secret on the eve of its opening. At more than 2,625 feet (800 metres), it long ago vanquished its nearest rival, the Taipei 101 in Taiwan. The CN Tower is 1,815 feet (553.3 metres) tall.

The Burj boasts the most storeys and highest occupied floor of any building in the world, and ranks as the world's tallest structure, beating out a television mast in North Dakota.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trenton **Repatriation ceremony**

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Family members watch yesterday as pallbearers carry the casket of Pte. Garrett Chidley to a waiting hearse during his repatriation ceremony in Trenton. Chidley, three other Canadian soldiers and journalist Michelle Lang were killed Wednesday when the armoured vehicle they were travelling in was struck by a roadside bomb blast near Kandahar city. More coverage, page 10.

T.O. terror link

Member of al-Qaida affiliate spent a year in the city

One of the most visible leaders of an al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist militia in Somalia spent a year in Toronto ingratiating himself into the Somali immigrant community as a convert to Islam.

Omar Hammami — known to followers as Abu Mansour "Al-Amriki" (the American) — ate at Somali restaurants and prayed in Somali mosques. He married a Toronto woman of Somali origin and had a daughter with her.

Then, after learning Somali ways, he left to join the Horn of Africa's top terror group, Al-Shabab, to wage Islamic jihad and recruit other foreign nationals to the cause, say former friends and relatives speaking publicly of the terrorist's Toronto connections for the first time.

"He betrayed us," a former friend who worked with Hammami at a Weston Road pizzeria says. "For a man to be saying that, Islamically, it is OK to be killing innocent people — and yesterday you fed him bread and welcomed him into your houses — it kind of shatters you."

Five ethnic Somali men disappeared from Scarborough this fall, all friends believed recruited into Al-Shabab. No direct connection to Hammami, 25, is known. In the Somali community Hammami's Internet postings are notorious.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No. 2 commander

- Last year, Kenya's Daily Nation had reported that "Abu Mansur al-Meriki" had become No. 2 commander of an Al-Shabab unit of 180 foreign fighters led by Kenyan national Saleh Nabhan.

Weather creates chaos on roads

Drivers on roads and all major highways across Ontario slid into ditches and collided with other vehicles yesterday after a blast of winter weather delivered snow squalls and icy conditions to parts of the province.

Provincial police received hundreds of calls about accidents involving motorists by yesterday morning alone, and their phones rang off the hook for the rest of the day.

"They're not coming in one at a time, they're coming in four, five and six at a time," Sgt. Dave Woodford said about the number of calls OPP officers responded to throughout the day.

By afternoon, Woodford said it was too difficult to calculate how many accidents emergency officials had responded to, but conditions were so treacherous police were urging motorists to stay home.

Arnold Ashton, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said the bitter cold weather and snow squalls would likely continue for the rest of the week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accidents

- Although there were scores of stories from drivers about cars spinning and "fender benders," OPP Sgt. Dave Woodford said there were no major injuries from the accidents.

News on the Move

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Sports pg 18

Canada in junior final

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Local

Penny sells for $400K

The buyer of a rare Canadian penny was in for a lot more than a pound at an auction in New York. The penny dating from the 1930s sold for $402,500 US yesterday. The penny is rare because it's one of only three known 1936-dated Canadian cents struck by the Royal Canadian Mint with a small but distinctive dot below the date to indicate it actually was made in 1937. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lawrence Martin gives us his take on the Canadian political scene.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs Global Peasant gives a slight twist to a classic recipe for chicken pot pie.
Immigration Guidy Mamann on restrictions against refugees claiming work experience to apply for residence at **metronews.ca/immigration**

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Flooding is 'a major disaster'

Burst water pipe causing sinkhole in west end, five houses affected

Herna Agresor woke up yesterday morning in her basement, feeling a little chilly and damp. She got up from bed and her feet went straight into freezing water.

"I rushed upstairs to my mother — I didn't even pick up my purse or jacket," said Agresor. Thirty minutes later, the water gushing in from all directions filled the basement, almost touching the ceiling.

"Everything I had was in the basement ... it's all gone," said Agresor.

The basements of five neighbouring houses were flooded after a water main broke on Hillary Avenue, near Keele and Rogers streets.

Water came close to lapping at the ceilings in three basements, said firefighters who spent all day pumping it out. In some cases, it ruined storage sheds and almost crept up the main floors, too.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto firefighters bring pumps to remove standing water after a water main break on Hillary Avenue in the city's west end sent families out in the cold, as city repair crews battle the gushing water.

"It's a major disaster," said Robin Sanders, fire platoon chief for Toronto West.

The break happened around 9 a.m., when the outdoor temperature was a frigid –10 C, according to Environment Canada.

An 89-year-old, six-inch, cast iron water line that runs between houses broke, said city officials, flooding the homes, which are in a low-lying area. The pipe was buried in front of 51 and 53 Hillary Avenue.

Residents of the affected homes — Nos. 49 to 59 — were evacuated and hydro and gas turned off.

"(The cold weather) makes it a little more dangerous for crews to work," said Lou Di Gironimo, general manager of Toronto Water. He said it slowed pace of excavation as frozen ground is harder to dig up.

Initially, homeowners were told they would not be able to return home until today. But by midday yesterday, it was clear it might be a longer wait because some of the flooded area was settling. The area around Nos. 53 and 55 is sinking the most, said a police officer as he went around the neighbourhood asking people to move parked cars to higher ground. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Widow calls for construction accident inquiry

The widow of one of the men killed in Toronto's worst construction accident in the last half-century has called for a full public inquiry into the Christmas Eve deaths of four workers who fell 13 storeys from a scaffold.

"I want the truth," Oksana Afanasenko, 27, told the Toronto Star yesterday.

"I would like to find out what really happened," Afanasenko said. "I've heard bits and pieces."

Construction industry officials are calling the Christmas Eve accident that killed her husband, Aleksey Blumberg, 33, of Ukraine, the worst one-day construction tragedy in Toronto since five men were trapped underground and killed March 17, 1960, while building a water main tunnel at Hogg's Hollow, near Yonge Stret and Old York Mills Road.

"I want the truth. I would like to find out what really happened. I've heard bits and pieces."
Oksana Afanasenko, widow

Also killed in the fall on Christmas Eve were: Fayzullo Fazilov, 31, of Uzbekistan; Alexander Bondorev, 25, originally from Latvia, and Vladimir Korostin, 40, originally from Uzbekistan.

A fifth worker, Dilshod Marupov, 21, of Uzbekistan, remains in critical care at Sunnybrook Hospital after surviving the fall at 2757 Kipling Ave.

Afanasenko's call for a full inquiry into the deaths was echoed by John Cartwright, president of the Toronto and York Labour Council.

"We want to make sure that the conditions that led to this tragedy aren't repeated," Cartwright said.

Questions need to be raised about safety conditions in the underground construction economy, Cartwright said, adding he fears safety standards in the industry are being eroded by employers who don't train workers or make compensation payments. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

DEATH For the third time in two months an inmate has died in suspicious circumstances at a Toronto jail. Kevon Philip, 24, died in hospital Saturday after corrections officers found him unconscious at the Toronto (Don) Jail. It was Toronto's first murder of 2010. Police are being tight-lipped, saying only homicide detectives are probing Philip's death. An autopsy was to be performed today. Philip's death comes less than two months after Jeffrey Munro was beaten to death in his cell at the jail. Three inmates are charged with first-degree murder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Dead snowmobiler from Scarborough
A 43-year-old cottager who died after his snowmobile went through the ice on Redstone Lake near Minden is from Scarborough, OPP say. James Scott Hartley was at the cottage with two male friends when they went snowmobiling Friday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Humane Society reopens

More than a month after the Toronto Humane Society's doors were locked amid allegations of animal cruelty, a spokesman says staff at the embattled downtown shelter are anxious to get back to the business of rescuing stray and abandoned pets.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Humane Society president Tim Trow is led out of the Humane Society in handcuffs by Toronto police in this Nov. 26, 2009 file photo. Trow is charged with conspiracy to commit an indictable offence, cruelty to animals and obstruction of a peace officer.

The shelter reopens to the public today, five weeks after the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals raided the building and arrested five senior staffers, including former president Tim Trow, on a number of charges, including animal cruelty.

Business operations at the shelter, which houses more than a thousand stray animals, resumed Dec. 29 after a four-week suspension, but Humane Society spokesman Ian McConachie said the society won't be meeting its true mandate until it's working with the public again.

"That's always our first priority, to place these animals into new homes," McConachie said in a phone interview.

"The shelter's always meant as a temporary refuge for the animals, and to get them into loving and permanent homes is always the ideal. That was one of our first priorities when we got (back) in there, was to resume adoptions as quickly as possible."

All adoptions are being cleared by veterinarians as well as OSPCA workers, who have been put in charge of animal care at the shelter.

Some 109 cats and 25 dogs have been cleared for adoption, while the rest are not medically fit for new homes, said OSPCA communications director Rosaline Ryan. Twenty-five other animals had to be euthanized, she added.

Prospective adopters will be fully apprised of any conditions or treatments their new pets may have undergone, Ryan added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayoral race begins today

ELECTION The race to be Toronto's next mayor is shaping up to be a crowded field, with a half-dozen candidates expected — but it's still early days for some mayoralty contests in the suburban regions.

The starter's gun officially goes off today, the first day candidates can formally file their papers to run in the gruelling 10-month campaign that ends Oct. 25.

George Smitherman

Once registered, candidates can begin to build an organization and start the all-important fundraising — expected to be tougher in Toronto because only individuals can donate, after city council voted to ban union and corporate donations in December. Candidates who hope to mount a viable mayoralty campaign in Toronto will need to raise at least $1.5 million.

Rocco Rossi, former Liberal Party national director, expects to register when the doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Former deputy premier George Smitherman must first resign his post as MPP for Toronto Centre, and is likely to file his papers later this week. Others are still playing coy, including John Tory, who insiders say will declare his candidacy later this month. Budget chief Shelley Carroll says she'll decide after the 2010 operating budget is set.

Among the potential NDP successors to Mayor David Miller are Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and TTC chair Adam Giambrone.

Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti has declared his candidacy, although he could not be reached for comment on when he will file papers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

POLITICS A Toronto Catholic School Board trustee says he'll run for Toronto city council. Rob Davis, who joined the board in May 2008, said he plans to run for Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence. In a statement released yesterday, he charges residents are "being held ransom" to council's ideology and says he plans to change its ways if elected. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Unscheduled stop in Montreal
Air Canada says a flight bound for Germany made an unscheduled landing in Montreal on Wednesday night following an altercation between two passengers. Police said a Toronto man is in custody and is expected to be charged with causing a public disturbance. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CEOs' wallets not hurt by recession

Canada's 100 highest paid CEOs pocketed an average of $7.3 million in 2008, the same year Canadians were hard hit by the emergence of the worldwide recession, according to a new report by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Economist Hugh Mackenzie, who authored the report, said that's 174 times more than the average Canadian wage.

And while the average compensation for the top CEOs outpaced inflation by 70 per cent between 1998 and 2008, people earning the average income lost six per cent to inflation over that period, he said.

"To put that in perspective, Canadians will work full-time throughout the year to earn the national average of $42,305," Mackenzie said.

"Canadians will work full-time throughout the year to earn the national average of $42,305 ... The top 100 CEOs pocket that amount by 1:01 p.m. on Jan. 4 — the first working day of the year."
Hugh Mackenzie, economist

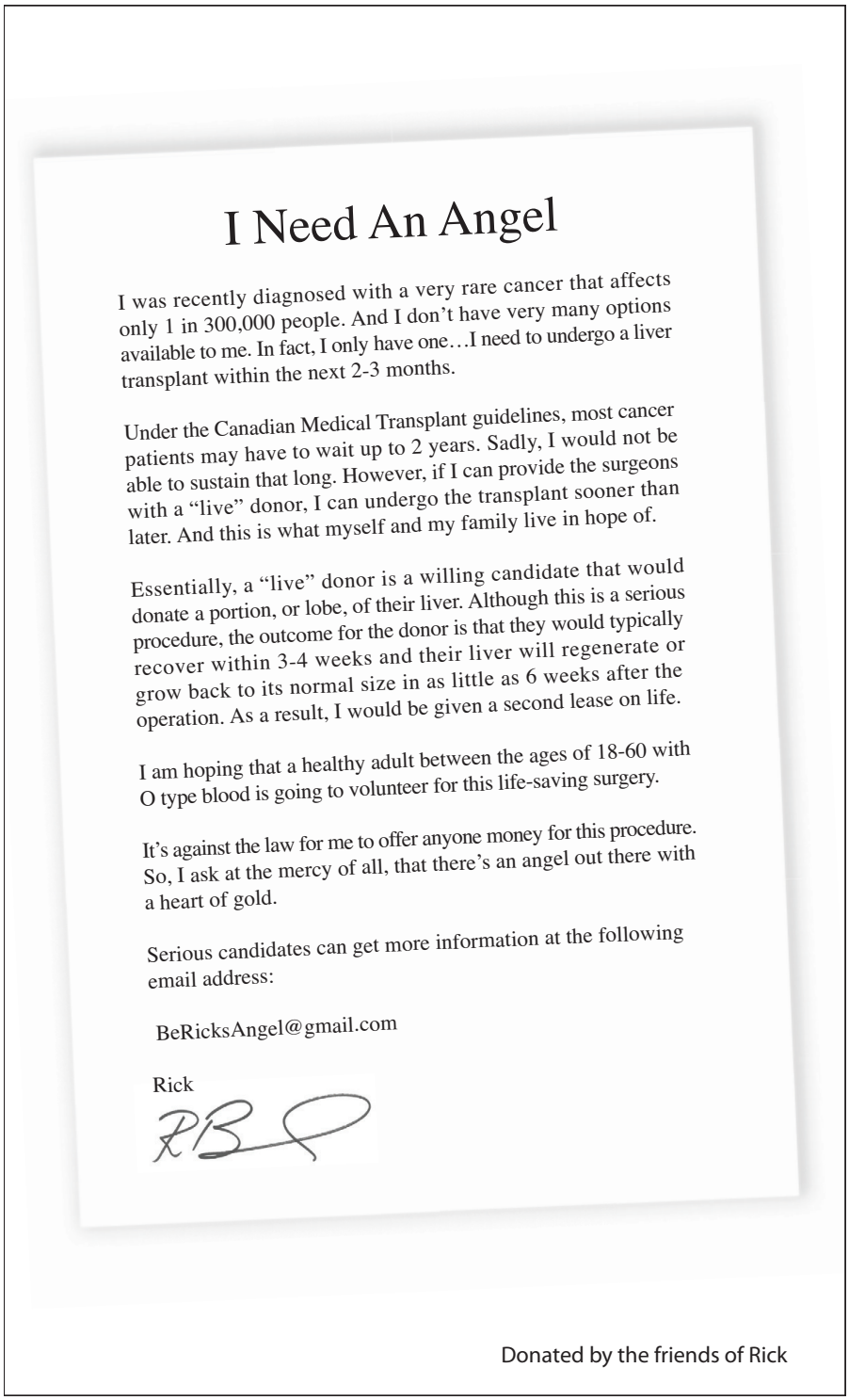
"The top 100 CEOs pocket that amount by 1:01 p.m. on Jan. 4 — the first working day of the year."

Thomas Glocer of Thomson Reuters Corp. was the top earner with a total salary of $36.6 million, followed by the late Ted Rogers at $21.5 million.

Big bank executives were also on the list with healthy compensation, the report said.

TD Bank CEO Edmund Clark made $11.1 million in 2008, while National Bank's Louis Vachon pocketed $10.5 million and Gordon Nixon of Royal Bank took home $9.6 million.

Richard Waugh of the Bank of Nova Scotia had total earnings of $9.2 million, William Downe of the Bank of Montreal made $6.4 million and CIBC's Gerry McCaughey took home $6.3 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Recent increased security measures have caused delays for passengers flying to the United States.

U.S. calls the shots on tighter Canada airport security: Expert

TERRORISM Don't expect tighter security at Canadian airports to relax until the United States gets over its latest air scare, aviation experts say.

The ban on certain types of carry-on luggage on U.S.-bound flights, along with other restrictions, are likely to last as long as the Americans want them to.

"Canada is very much a victim of the United States," said David Gillen, director of the University of British Columbia's Centre for Transportation Studies.

"They're the ones who (are) driving the entire process. So all that we can really do is react and try and change the thinking of (U.S.) Homeland Security, that they should be looking for people rather than incidents ... (that) is, I think, a very difficult process."

Enhanced security measures have been in place since an apparent terror attack was thwarted on Christmas Day.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, a 23-year-old Nigerian man, was arrested after he allegedly tried to bring down a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ALLEGATIONS Ontario's top police officer must face allegations he illegally influenced municipal officials, a judge ruled Thursday as he ordered either a summons or warrant be issued for provincial police commissioner Julian Fantino. The allegations against Fantino were brought by Gary McHale, who has led a number of rallies decrying what he calls two-tier justice in the policing of an aboriginal land occupation in Caledonia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bullet hits home in Scarborough

Police are trying to find the source of a gunshot that put a hole through the bedroom window of a house in Scarborough late Saturday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Above and below: Dippers plunge into Lake Ontario during the New Year's Day Courage Polar Bear Dip in Oakville on Friday. Organizers estimate over 500 people took part in the dip for charity.

Dippers feel like a million

Icy cold New Year's tradition raises cash for charity

Brave souls donned wigs, Santa hats, and, of course, bathing caps as they shrieked and splashed in icy cold waters across the country, keeping up a decades-long New Year's Day tradition — the polar bear dip.

"Absolutely freezing. I'd say the worst part is your feet — they turn to practical ice cubes," Crystall Shortall said through chattering teeth.

Like many who charged the waters at Coronation Park in Oakville, this wasn't Shortall's first time. The 15-year-old has been taking the plunge in Lake Ontario for five years now.

"You always regret doing it after, but for some reason you forget what it's like and you want to do it again," she said, shuffling about inside a giant, decorated cardboard box, which was meant to look like a Christmas present.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Many dressed up for the event that attracted an eclectic group of 600 swimmers and 5,000 spectators.

Dirk Soeterik wore a spiky wig, and covered himself in balloons. He called himself the "Oakville balloon boy," poking fun at the infamous story that sparked headlines last year.

"I've been spending some nights outside in the back porch trying to get acclimatized," said Soeterik, grinning, as he talked about his strategy for enduring the cold waters.

"I really worked on my mental game."

The Oakville dippers were met with temperatures below -2 C. Snowflakes began to fall while many were still in the water.

The wacky event originated in Oakville 25 years ago, when Todd Courage and his brother began a tradition that, today, has become a charity event that raises nearly $230,000 for World Vision to support freshwater projects in Rwanda.

Courage said the first dip into the waters always feels like "little needles" all over the body, but once out of the water people tend to feel like "a million bucks."

"It's one of those things that people want to do, like parachuting or skydiving, at least once in your life," said Courage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's driving instructors are back on the job

LABOUR Striking DriveTest workers have ratified a contract and are to return to work today.

The strike prevented many Ontario residents from getting new licences or renewals since August.

United Steelworkers Local 9511 president Jim Young says about 72 per cent of the workers who voted on the deal were in favour of the agreement.

Voting was held over several days and results were announced late Thursday.

"It took a 19-week-long strike in order to achieve a fair deal the Membership was willing to accept," Young said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cellphone info not for court?

LAW During a routine traffic stop, police suspected the car was stolen. That led to a search uncovering a handgun concealed in the back seat. With a suspect in custody, an officer looked through the man's handheld device and discovered a seemingly incriminating text message.

But the officer found while he was legally able to seize the device, the evidence he found couldn't necessarily be used in court.

As hand-held electronic devices grow more ubiquitous, the information they store, from photos and text messages to call histories, is playing an increasingly larger role in criminal cases.

But digital evidence, like all evidence called during trials, must be tested, and two recent Ontario court rulings underscore what has long been true in wiretap cases: Police can tap your phone lines, but that doesn't mean what they hear will be admissible in court.

This fall, Toronto defence lawyer Darren Sederoff argued the warrantless search leading to the discovery of a text message infringed his client's (Section 8) Charter rights to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.

The judge agreed.

In his legal arguments, Sederoff cited a pre-trial ruling earlier this year by Superior Court Justice Brian Trafford, who found police had improperly seized a cellphone belonging to a murder suspect.

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Funeral for slain officer set for Thursday

Loved ones will gather later this week in Ottawa to bid a final farewell to slain police Const. Eric Czapnik. Fellow police officers from across Canada are expected to attend Thursday's funeral service at the Ottawa Civic Centre. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Ice pick-wielding man robs woman

Two men have been arrested in connection with a robbery in London, Ont., after a woman was pulled out of her car by a man brandishing an ice pick. London police say around 11 p.m. on Saturday, a woman was sitting in her car outside a convenience store when a man opened the driver's door and held out an ice pick. The woman was pulled from the car and ran to call police.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Slain Canadians back home

Friends, family say goodbye to journalist, four soldiers

Grieving loved ones, their wind-bitten faces taut with grief, placed single white roses atop Michelle Lang's flag-shrouded casket yesterday as the bodies of the award-winning Calgary journalist and four Canadian soldiers were returned to Canadian soil.

Garrett Chidley | George Miok | Kirk Taylor | Zachery McCormack | Michelle Lang

To the now-familiar strains of a piper's lament, pallbearers carried the casket to one of a line of waiting hearses, where a large contingent of family members and friends, linked arm-in-arm, emerged from beneath a shelter to bid Lang, 34, a final farewell.

Michael Louie, the man Lang was to marry this summer, carried a single red rose and wept openly as he approached the vehicle, while others around him pulled each other close.

One by one, the ritual repeated for each of the men Lang died alongside — Sgt. George Miok, 28; Sgt. Kirk Taylor, 28; Cpl. Zachery McCormack, 21; and Pte. Garrett Chidley, 21 — during a cold repatriation ceremony at CFB Trenton.

The five were killed Wednesday when the armoured vehicle they were travelling in was struck by a massive roadside bomb blast on the outskirts of Kandahar city — the third-bloodiest day for Canadian forces since the Afghan mission began in 2002.

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Gen. Walt Natynczyk, Canada's chief of defence staff, were also on hand yesterday to pay their respects.

Lang, who was on assignment in Kandahar for Canwest News Service, was the first Canadian journalist to be killed while covering the mission. A National Newspaper Award winner, she had been in Afghanistan for little more than two weeks.

Miok, an Edmonton-based reservist and a junior high school teacher, often told his family of his overseas military missions, "I'm just off to save the world. Somebody has to."

Taylor, a reservist from Yarmouth, N.S., so believed in the Afghan mission that he had prepared a public statement defending the cause to be released in the event of his death.

The "mission in Afghanistan is vital for us not only as Canadians but as human beings," he wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Total casualties

- In all, 138 Canadian soldiers and two civilians have died as part of Canada's eight-year mission in Afghanistan.

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

The family of a Nova Scotia soldier killed in Afghanistan remembers his passion for helping others. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Family dog thwarts cougar attack on boy

B.C. The way Lloyd Forman sees it, his 11-year-old grandson was saved by an Angel.

That's the golden retriever who protected young Austin from a charging cougar during a bloody, against-all-odds confrontation Saturday in the tiny British Columbia community of Boston Bar, about 200 kilometres northeast of Vancouver.

"The cougar came (from) about five feet away and made a big jump (at Austin)," Forman said yesterday in an interview.

"The dog jumped in between and took on the cougar."

Austin was in his family's backyard collecting firewood with his dog when the cougar appeared.

The cougar charged toward the boy, but Angel stepped in and fought off the large cat while Austin ran inside and other family members frantically called for help.

When an RCMP officer arrived, the cougar had Angel under the porch with its teeth around the dog's neck. The Mountie fired several shots, killing the cougar.

The dog was injured, but is expected to recover. Austin wasn't hurt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

STORM A local state of emergency remained in effect in Port Elgin, N.B., yesterday after a huge storm surge crashed in off the Gulf of St. Lawrence, flooding dozens of homes and businesses and destroying cottages. Area residents hit hard by water levels that rose several metres above normal remained worried about the potential for further damage from additional storm surges.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta flu clinics to reopen
Flu clinics are set to reopen today in Alberta and the province's Deputy Medical Officer of Health says there's still demand for swine flu vaccinations. About one million people in Alberta have been vaccinated so far. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. envoy watching oilsands

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A pickup truck leads a haul vehicle at an oilsands mine near Fort McMurray, Alta. The oilsands projects in northern Alberta have taken global centre stage lately.

A career diplomat is keeping a close eye on the failures and successes within Alberta's oilsands and is reporting what she learns to the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama.

The giant projects in northern Alberta have taken global centre stage of late, thanks in large part to climate-change talks in Copenhagen. And Laura Lochman, the U.S. consul general responsible for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, has essentially become the eyes and ears for the White House since her appointment in Calgary last June.

"Our job in the consulate is to communicate back to Washington, back to the policy-makers, what's really going on here. Because policy, at least theoretically, should be based on fact and reality," Lochman told The Canadian Press.

Alberta boasts the second largest oil reserves in the world — more than 174 billion barrels — behind only Saudi Arabia.

Laura Lochman

The resource has been under attack from environmentalists who call oilsands crude "dirty oil" because of the amount of greenhouse gases produced when it's refined.

The oilsands have become a growing political issue in the United States. California has passed new low-carbon fuel rules that are to go into effect in 2011 and are being eyed by other U.S. states.

Last February, during his first visit to Canada, Obama spoke of the "big carbon footprint" left by the oilsands.

Other lawmakers south of the border have also expressed concerns.

Lochman acknowledged there are serious environmental impacts to address, but she said there has been progress. She pointed to the developing technology of carbon capture and said it has shown real promise in dealing with emissions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police probe bus crash

TOURISTS Quebec provincial police are continuing their investigation into Friday's bus crash near Stanstead, Que. that killed one person and injured nine others. Police do not expect to lay charges against the driver of the bus, which is owned by a New York State-based travel company and was carrying a group of about 30 international tourists when it hit a post and flipped onto its side.

Police are speaking to the driver of a car who may have cut the bus off, adding that he is fully cooperating with officers and no charges have been laid so far. The passenger who died is a Hong Kong woman in her 60s.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gas project will lift sector, experts say

OFFSHORE A natural gas project set for production this year could breathe new life into Nova Scotia's sluggish offshore sector, but it won't resuscitate the province's economy overnight after drowning in red ink, say analysts and industry experts.

Calgary-based EnCana's long-awaited Deep Panuke field is on track to produce natural gas for major U.S. markets late this year after the company decided in 2007 to proceed with the project.

Deep Panuke
760M Cost in dollars of developing natural gas field.

The provincial government says it stands to receive between $50 million and $300 million in royalties over Deep Panuke's anticipated lifespan of 13 years. A windfall from Deep Panuke isn't expected this year, according to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council. A senior policy analyst with the Halifax-based think-tank estimates Nova Scotia's royalties will fall between $1.5 and $5 million in the first few years of the project.

It remains unclear exactly when Deep Panuke will begin producing natural gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Premier Campbell has no plans to retire

STAYING ON B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell is sending strong signals the Winter Olympics are giving him a second political wind, dashing widespread speculation the three-term leader was considering retiring after the Games. Campbell, who turns 61 in January, says his job is only half finished and he's planning to run for a fourth-straight term in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Study #2 3683 **Caucasian Males & Females, 18-50 years old**
2 Session(s)
Session 1 – Monday, February 1 through Wednesday February 10 **Session 2** – Wednesday, February 17 through Friday February 26
with 1 follow up visit a month following the second session. Compensation is up to $3140 for study completion (disbursed throughout study).

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Workers toil to halt diesel leak in Chinese river

More than 700 workers in northern China worked overnight into yesterday morning digging channels and using floating dams to stop a diesel fuel leak from flowing into the Yellow River, the water source for millions of Chinese. The leak from a pipeline into the Wei River followed a construction accident Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

German jet skids off runway

A jet veered off the runway at a western German airport yesterday, but no one was injured, authorities said. The pilot of the Air Berlin Boeing 737-800 had braked to abort the takeoff from Dortmund airport, but the plane left the runway in wintry conditions. It came to rest with its nose pointing down a slight, snow-covered slope. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. knew airline attack suspect had extremist ties

INTELLIGENCE British officials knew that the Nigerian man suspected of trying to bomb a Detroit-bound airliner had ties to U.K. extremists but did not consider him enough of a high risk to alert American authorities, a senior British official said yesterday.

Officials realized about a year after Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab came to London to study in 2005 that he was in contact with Islamic extremists who were being monitored, a government official told The Associated Press yesterday.

But there were no signs that Abdulmutallab wanted to target the U.S. or was considering turning toward violence, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It was clear he was reaching out to radical extremists in the U.K. but there was nothing to indicate he was violent," the official said.

"There is a very large number of people in the U.K. who express interest in radical extremism but never turn to violence."

Officials say Abdulmutallab sneaked an explosive aboard his Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No 'smoking gun'

- U.S. intelligence agencies did not miss a "smoking gun" that could have prevented the alleged attempted attack, the U.S.'s top counterterrorism adviser said yesterday. White House aide John Brennan cited "lapses" and errors in the sharing of intelligence and clues about the Nigerian man accused in the foiled attempt.

Terror threats shut embassies

U.S., Britain close Yemen outposts over al-Qaida fears

The U.S. and Britain locked up their embassies in Yemen yesterday after threats from al-Qaida, and the White House expressed alarm at the terror group's expanded reach in the nation, where an offshoot apparently ordered the Christmas Day plot against a U.S. airliner.

U.S. President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, John Brennan, cited "indications al-Qaida is planning to carry out an attack against a target" in the capital, possibly the embassy, and estimated the group had several hundred members in Yemen. Security reasons led Britain to act, too; it was not known when the embassies would reopen.

The U.S. is worried about the spread of terrorism in Yemen, a U.S. ally and aid recipient, Brennan said, but doesn't consider the country a second front with Afghanistan and Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.

As to whether U.S. troops might be sent to Yemen, Brennan replied: "We're not talking about that at this point at all." He pledged to provide the Yemeni government with "the wherewithal" to take down al-Qaida.

Britain and the U.S. are assisting a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen as fears grow about the increasing threat of terrorism originating from the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More flight security checks

- The Transportation Security Administration says passengers flying into the U.S. from states that "sponsor terrorism" — Cuba, Iran, Sudan and Syria — as well as Yemen. Nigeria, and Pakistan will be subject to enhanced screening techniques, such as scans and pat-downs, starting today. The agency also said that all passengers on U.S.-bound international flights will be subject to random screening.

MIKE HUTCHINGS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South African president Jacob Zuma is seen with his three wives Sizakele Khumalo, right, Nompumelo Ntuli, left, and Tobeka Madiba in Cape Town, South Africa in this June 2009 file photo.

South African president to marry third wife

POLYGAMY The South African president's office says he is set to formalize his marriage to his third wife in a traditional wedding ceremony this week.

In a statement released yesterday, the presidency said President Jacob Zuma and Tobeka Madiba will take part in a private family ceremony today.

The office requested that media "allow the family the privacy that they are entitled to."

Madiba attended Zuma's inauguration ceremony in May.

The president also has two other wives and 19 children.

Zuma's embrace of Zulu tradition — including polygamy — has endeared him to many South Africans.

Still, many younger people consider polygamy old-fashioned and expensive, and question how it can endure in a modern country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iranian reporter given jail time, internal exile

TEHRAN An Iranian journalist lost an appeal yesterday against his conviction on charges of spreading propaganda against the ruling Islamic establishment and was sentenced to six years in prison and five years of internal exile in a remote desert town.

The court confirmed a lifelong ban on political activity for the reporter, Ahmad Zeidabadi, who was also once a student activist. Zeidabadi was among more than 100 political figures and activists tried together in the aftermath of Iran's disputed presidential election. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

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Bombs kill six in Pakistan
Roadside bombs struck two vehicles in Pakistan's volatile northwest yesterday, killing a former irrigation minister and three others in one attack and two anti-Taliban tribal elders in the other. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt lets more Israeli pilgrims visit tomb

Hundreds of Israelis came to Egypt yesterday for an annual pilgrimage to the tomb of a 19th-century Jewish holy man in Egypt's Nile Delta.

Last year, Egypt denied the pilgrims entry because the anniversary fell during Israel's offensive on Gaza and there were concerns about their security and public protests. In past years, Egypt limited the number of pilgrims visiting the tomb of Rabbi Yaakov Abuhatzeira near the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Revered mystic

- Rabbi Yaakov Abuhatzeira is revered by some Jews as a mystic renowned for his piety and for performing miracles

Mudslides prompt nuclear shutdown

BRAZIL The mayor of a mudslide-devastated city yesterday urged a precautionary shutdown of Brazil's only nuclear power plants due to blocked highways while the death toll from flooding and slides rose to 75.

Angra dos Reis Mayor Tuca Jordao said that while the nuclear power plants are not damaged or threatened, mudslides that have killed at least 44 people in his city alone have disrupted escape routes needed to cope with any emergency.

Crews using rescue dogs, heavy machinery, boats and helicopters took advantage of improved weather yesterday to hunt for any survivors from the Angra dos Reis slides.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV show helps capture suspect

FUGITIVE A man accused of killing four relatives at a Thanksgiving holiday dinner was captured at a motel in the Florida Keys where police said he had eluded authorities for about a month by checking in under a fake name and address, and hiding his car with a cover.

Paul Merhige, 35, was arrested without a struggle Saturday night after the TV show "America's Most Wanted" aired and provided the tip that led to Merhige's capture on Long Key. Merhige is accused of gunning down his twin sisters, a 79-year-old aunt and a 6-year-old cousin.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BOMBING An Iraqi insurgent group claimed responsibility yesterday for a double bombing last month that killed 24 people and severely injured a provincial governor. The group Islamic State of Iraq called the Dec. 30 blasts in Ramadi, about 115 kilometres west of Baghdad, "a divine blow" against "the criminal security apparatus" in a statement posted on an Islamic website.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW TTC FARES – Effective January 3, 2010

TTC FARES	CASH SINGLE FARE PURCHASE	TOKENS & TICKETS	MONTHLY METROPASS	MDP (METROPASS DISCOUNT PLAN, ANNUAL PER MONTH)	WEEKLY PASS
ADULT	$3.00	5 tokens $12.50 10 tokens $25.00	$121.00 /Month	$111.00 /Month	$36.00 /Week
STUDENT/ SENIOR	$2.00	5 tickets $8.25 10 tickets $16.50	$99.00 /Month	$89.00 /Month	$28.00 /Week
CHILD	75¢	10 tickets $5.50			

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When can I buy TTC tokens, new tickets and new Day Passes?

Tokens, new Student/Senior and Children Tickets, and new Day Passes are on sale January 3, 2010.

What happens to my old tickets and Day Passes? Can I use them?

Additional fare required:			
Effective January 3 to January 31, 2010			
TEMPORARY ADULT TICKET	+25¢	OLD CHILD TICKET	+5¢
OLD STUDENT/SENIOR TICKET	+15¢	OLD DAY PASS – No Additional Fare Required	

You cannot use your old Temporary Adult, old Student/Senior, old Child tickets or old Day Passes after January 31, 2010.

After January 31, 2010, what do I do with my old Temporary Adult Tickets?

Old temporary adult tickets cannot be used.

Can I return my old Temporary Adult Tickets for a refund or exchange?

Old Temporary Adult Tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded at any time.

After January 31, 2010, what do I do with my old Student/Senior/Child Tickets and old Day Passes?

Old TTC Student/Senior/Child Tickets can be returned to the TTC for a refund of their original value. Old Day Passes will not be refunded, but will be exchanged in person only.

TICKET REFUNDS* (Student/Senior/Child ONLY) OR DAY PASS EXCHANGES IN PERSON (Day Passes cannot be refunded)		TICKET REFUNDS* BY MAIL (Student/Senior/Child ONLY)
From January 4, 2010: TTC MDP Office (above Davisville Station) 1900 Yonge Street, Toronto Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm	**From February 1 to March 31, 2010:** Bloor-Yonge Station Collector Booth (Bloor Street southside entrance) Monday to Friday, 7:00am – 7:00pm	**From January 4, 2010:** TTC Accounts Payable 1900 Yonge Street Toronto, ON M4S 1Z2 **Old Day Passes Cannot Be Exchanged By Mail**
*Old adult temporary tickets cannot be exchanged or refunded.		

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Comment

Waiting for the next hike

InTransit

Ed Drass

metronews.ca/intransit

As of yesterday, fares increased by more than 10 per cent for most TTC users. Those that received a Christmas bonus or pay raise can perhaps absorb the hike without complaint, but the rest of us will have to fit the increase into existing budgets. Since riders can expect fares to go up in a year — and, hopefully, not before — we also ought to look at the TTC's budget.

Transit watcher Steve Munro has noted that the cost to operate the city's buses, streetcars and subways is set to rise by between six and seven per cent in 2010. Staffing and fuel head the list of TTC costs, but there is a huge array of other items that add to the pressure.

If that rate continues into 2011 and beyond, then the politicians and staff who oversee Toronto's transit system have an obligation to project how much more it will need every year to operate and grow the system. And they need to explain why this is so far above inflation.

What kind of fare hikes can TTC riders expect every year, and will they get better service to go with it? GO Transit usually raises fares in March or April, and trumpets recent expansion at the same time.

Leaving aside overall improvements in schedule reliability and employee courtesy, the TTC can argue it is at least upgrading service. Two new transit-only routes opened recently — to York University and along St. Clair — and work is underway to build light rail lines across the city.

However, even if these lines attract more riders, the nature of public transit is that each new user still needs to be subsidized by tax dollars. When the Sheppard subway opened, it was an immediate drain on TTC finances and future lines will be, too, unless a stable funding mechanism is worked out between governments.

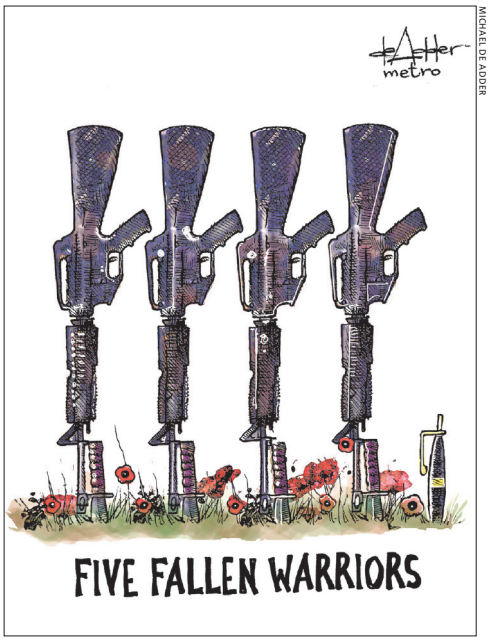
During the fare hike drama of late 2009, several organizations came forward to voice concerns — some even formed a coalition known as TTC Riders (ttcriders.ca).

Transit advocates and user groups can be useful if they bring attention to the larger transportation funding picture, as well as demand specific improvements to the riding experience.

We need healthy ongoing discussion about making transit better — even while containing costs. Let's have a rough idea how much fares are going up in January 2011, and 2012, instead of the usual last-minute debate and ensuing complaint binge.

After token hoarding and the inconvenient replacement tickets last month, many have asked why the commission can't just implement a price change overnight. I would argue that as a tax-funded public agency the TTC must justify its policies — including pricing schemes — and allow the public ample chance to comment.

Toronto-based transport writer Ed Drass covers transit issues every Monday; transit@eddrass.com.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Ways to make any day seem brighter

HineSight

Anne Hines

metronews.ca/hinesight

Jan. 4. The holidays are over and today we go back to work or school or to wishing we had work or school. February (proof that god hates us) is just 27 cold, bleak days away. And, in the past few weeks, many of us have answered the question, "Is it possible to eat too many Christmas cookies?"

But, I ask you, is all of this any reason to be feeling down? The answer: Of course it is.

Help is at hand. Here's a list of five ways to make any day seem brighter.

1 Make a list of things you DON'T have to do today. This might include: Today, I don't have to enter a witness protection program.

Today, I don't have to be Tiger Woods' public relations adviser.

2 Limit your bad news intake.

Studies show that the less bad news we hear, the happier we are. As a general rule, the only bad news we really need to hear is limited to:

The building you are in is on fire.

Bad news we don't need to hear includes:

The fact that chocolate comes from beans doesn't make it a health food.

Any news items containing the words "dust mite."

3 Hit the drugstore and make note of the products you don't need ... at least at the moment. For instance, I myself was darn glad to realize that I don't currently need hemorrhoid medication, head bandages or foot fungus cream.

Tips: Don't spend time in the "family planning" section thinking, "Well, I certainly don't need condoms or strawberry scented lubricant gel," as this can have the opposite effect to making you feel better.

Halle Berry

And if you find that realizing you don't need Metamusil still doesn't cheer you up, it is permissible to stand in the aisle and wait until someone comes along who does.

4 Buy one of my books. This is 100 per cent guaranteed to create happiness.

If only for me.

5 Make a list of the ways in which your life is better than Halle Berry's. For many of us, this may be a short list. And limited to, "I don't have to choose yet another fabulous dress to wear to yet another fabulous event."

Male readers may want to imagine themselves as George Clooney rather than Halle Berry. Or not. This is all about what makes you happy after all.

Have a great day!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

Annual proroguing would erode Parliament: Experts

The role of elected representatives will erode further if the federal government makes good on its suggestion to make prorogation an annual event, experts say.

"It's not easy to see how this can work," says David Mitchell, president of the Ottawa-based Public Policy Forum. "It raises the question: Why do we have a Parliament?"

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper suspended parliamentary activity last week until early March, his spokesman called the move "routine," noting it has occurred 104 times previously.

The announcement was immediately denounced by opposition parties, who accused the Conservatives of undermining democracy and fleeing accountability, especially when it comes to Canada's treatment of Afghan detainees.

46%

The public does not seem to get worked up about the erosion of Parliamentary power, said political scientist Nelson Wiseman from the University of Toronto. His feeling is echoed privately by Tory MPs, and by a poll showing that 46 per cent of Canadians just don't care whether Parliament starts sitting in January or takes a break and comes back after the Olympics in March.

Still, there's word the Tories may go further to ensure prorogation becomes routine.

Government sources say they are contemplating formally shutting down Parliament at the end of every year, so the government can start afresh with a throne speech and a budget.

That way, the argument goes, the public will have a clear idea what the government plans to achieve for the coming year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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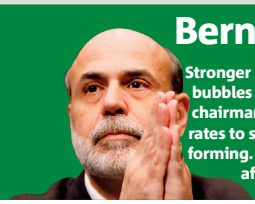
Tokyo Stock Exchange goes high speed

The Tokyo Stock Exchange will launch a new high-speed trading system today, scrapping an antiquated, glitch-prone platform for one that aims to compete with major global rivals. The new system can handle 46.8 million orders a day, an increase of 70 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business



Bernanke won't rule out rate hike

Stronger regulation should be the first line of defence against speculative bubbles that could send the economy into a new crisis, U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke said yesterday. But he didn't rule out higher interest rates to stop dangerous bubbles, such as the recent one in housing, from forming. Critics blame the Fed for holding interest rates too low for too long after the 2001 recession. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Loan program still troubled: Report

LOANS An Industry Canada loan program for small business continues to lose money and annoy bankers a decade after it was redesigned to avoid those very problems.

A new report on the Canada Small Business Financing Program has found a loan-guarantee portfolio in sharp decline even as losses to the federal treasury mount.

The program, which reimburses financial institutions for losses on defaulted loans, is a tangle of red tape and inflexible terms that has lenders fleeing, says the KPMG study, commissioned by Industry Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Auto industry picked as top business story

Edges out economic recovery, survey finds

Thousands of jobs lost, billions of dollars in government aid, two industry giants filing for bankruptcy protection — there is no doubt 2009 was the most dramatic year the North American auto industry has ever struggled through.

The year started off with many questioning whether General Motors and Chrysler would survive the recession. Twelve months later, despite job cuts and plant shutdowns, a faint pulse has returned to the sickly industry, thanks in large part to enormous loans from the Canadian, Ontario and U.S. governments, and concessions from workers in both countries.

The domestic auto industry and its painful struggle to survive was Canada's 2009 Business Story of the Year as chosen by an annual survey of editors and broadcasters by The Canadian Press, the national news agency.

Of 122 votes tallied, 46 were cast for the auto shakeup, edging out the Canadian economy's recovery from recession, which garnered 45 votes. In third place was the battle between the cable TV companies and broadcasters over a proposed fee for carriage system, with eight votes, followed by the stock market recovery, with six votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS/NATHAN DENETTE

General Motors and Chrysler were the poster boys for the domestic auto sector's painful struggle to survive.

Auto restructuring at a glance

COMPANIES: Chrysler, GM file for bankruptcy protection in U.S.
IMPACT: Detroit Three — GM, Ford and Chrysler — cut thousands of jobs and shut down plants in Canada and the U.S.
REASONS: Recession battered auto sales and the credit crunch made it hard for consumers to finance car purchases.
AID: Canadian, Ontario and U.S. governments provided tens of billions of dollars in loans to GM and Chrysler. Ford managed to restructure without government help.
JOBS: The restructuring means a permanent reduction in the number of manufacturing jobs in Ontario.
EMPLOYMENT: Overall employment in the industry is already down 37 per cent from its high in 2000.
FUTURE: Canadian assembly plants have secured a very popular mix of vehicles due in large part to a push by the federal and Ontario governments and the Canadian Auto Workers union. Still, the industry recovery is expected to be slow.

Balsillie named 2009's business newsmaker

BATTLE Jim Balsillie may have failed to land the Phoenix Coyotes last year, but his tenacious pursuit of the team gained the Waterloo billionaire businessman both notoriety and the admiration.

Balsillie's relentless battle with U.S. courts and the National Hockey League took on the air of a struggle for nothing less than national pride, painting him as a Canadian hero pushing to repatriate a piece of the national game from American soil.

Off the ice, the co-CEO of BlackBerry maker Research In Motion proved he could recover from repeated stumbles.

Balsillie's struggles have earned him the title of Canada's 2009 Business Newsmaker of the Year, as chosen in an annual survey of editors and broadcasters by The Canadian Press.

Balsillie captured 44 of 122 votes cast in the business newsmaker survey, nearly double the votes logged for the Canadian consumer, at second place with 24, and Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, with 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jim Balsillie

Business in brief

CLINTON Foreign countries contributed to former U.S. president Bill Clinton's charity, and donors ranging from the PGA Tour to multinational soft drink company Coca-Cola to singer Elton John's foundation also pitched in. A donor list released by the William J. Clinton Foundation shows that in all, Norway has given $10 million to $25 million to the charity since its founding a decade ago. Oman gave $1 million to $5 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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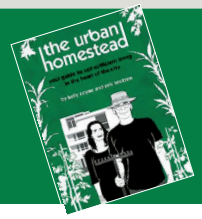
Computers still active in sleep mode
Did you know the energy savings from turning your computer off when not in use could pay for your next computer system, in full? It may surprise you as well, but screen savers do not save energy and many computers still consume more than 15 watts in sleep mode. Turn it off and start saving. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Going Green



Urban farming
The Urban Homestead: Your Guide to Self-Sufficient Living in the Heart of the City ($12), is a hands-on guide to help you harvest your own vegetables, raise city chickens and convert your home to solar energy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

The changing face of solar power

Latest prototypes challenging the way the world looks at renewable energy

NADIA LODDO
Metro World News

The sun is their only motor.

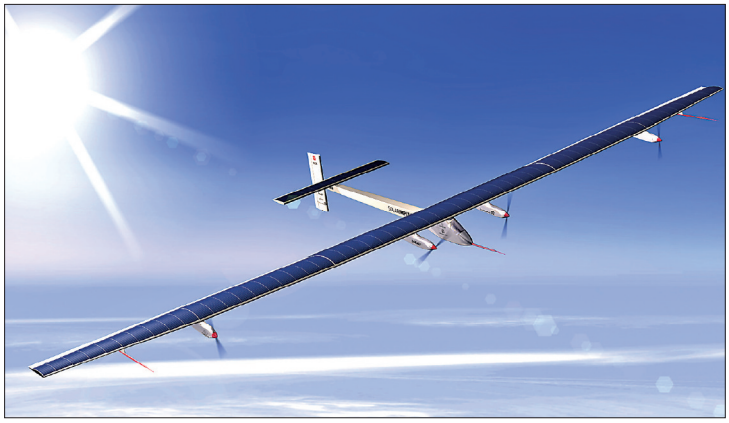
That's what two innovative prototypes have in common, along with the fact that they're Swiss projects and that, by 2011, they will be taking up the challenge of doing a world tour using no other energy than what our lucky star can supply.

Solar Impulse, by sky, and PlanetSolar, by sea, aspire to become the ambassadors of a green mobility revolution.

SOLAR IMPULSE

"Zero fuel, zero emissions, zero pollution," — that's the motto of the Solar Impulse project, a plane that flies using only solar energy — by day and night. Two hundred photovoltaic panels cover its 60-metre wings — the same span as an Airbus A340. When the sun shines, the electricity produced is transferred to the motors and at the same time, the turbines recharge the batteries with the surplus energy.

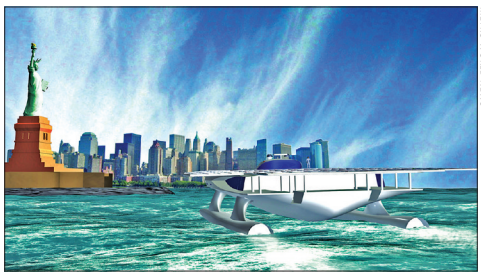
This prototype sets itself apart from previous projects because of its "human dimension," said Claude Michel, in charge of the Solvay-Solar Impulse partnership.


METRO WORLD NEWS

A solar plane from Solar Impulse will be soon flying around the planet.

200 The Solar Impulse plane uses 200 photovoltaic solar panels to power its flight. At the same time the turbines recharge the batteries. The PlanetSolar boat uses 470 photovoltaic solar panels.

Solar Impulse has a pilot on board — uncommon for solar projects. To have enough power to bare the weight of a man, the key is lightness: "When you don't have a lot of energy, you've got to save it," said Michel. "Consider that 1 kg less on a plane, means 144 liters of fuel saved over a year. That's 500 kg of CO2."


METRO WORLD NEWS

A solar boat from PlanetSolar will take to the seas in 2010.

The first test flights will be run by the end of this year and, in 2011, Solar Impulse should be the first solar plane to undertake a tour around the world.

It's not destined for commercial use but it does have agricultural potentials.

PLANETSOLAR

The same optimism in green solutions, research and technological advances, is at the origin of the PlanetSolar project. This 30 metre long and 35 metre wide catamaran is covered by 470 of photovoltaic panels.

"Technology and knowledge, which can allow us to live in harmony with nature, are already available now," said the Swiss skipper Raphaël Domjan, founder of PlanetSolar. "We have to show the world that these solutions exist, work and are economically viable."

Under construction since Jan. 2009 in Germany, the boat will take the seas in May 2010 at the Hamburg Port Festival. After a first tour of Europe, PlanetSolar will be sailing the world's oceans. On board, Raphaël Domjan and his well-known partner, the French skipper Gérard d'Aboville (first man to row across the Atlantic ocean alone), will make stops along their journey to raise awareness on the power of renewable energies.

Green Tips in brief

COMPUTERS More than three-quarters of computers sold in the Canada each year end up in a dump. That's why computers and other electronic waste make up 70 per cent of the lead, cadmium, and mercury in landfills, according to Kim McKay and Jenny Bonnin's True Green @ Work: 100 Ways You Can Make the Environment Your Business. Instead of pitching it, recycle it. Give it to the non-profit iRecycle Computers.

LIGHTERS More than 1.5 billion disposable lighters end up in landfills or incinerators every year, according to Gillian Deacon's Green For Life. They carry an ugly environmental legacy — the casings are made of petroleum-based plastic, and the butane fuel is a petroleum product. Use cardboard matches instead. They are made from recycled paper and have the ability to decompose faster than lighters.

ATM RECEIPTS Around 1 billion ATM transactions occur each year in Canada and most of them will spit out receipts when you're done. That's a lot of unnecessary paper. And considering you are likely to just take a quick look and then it inevitably gets balled up and pitched — you should instead consider keeping tabs over your transactions online. If 10,000 people decided to do that, together they'd save a roll of paper more than 460 metres long, according to The Ideal Bite. METRO NEWS SERVICES

3 Green inventions to watch for

CLIMATE
Green is everywhere. There is not one day where you don't see a green message.

And there is now a very lucrative market for green inventions. From simple devices to major discoveries. Here are four inventions that may change our future.

SYNTHETIC TREE

Q Trees are very important for our air quality. But is there enough left on the planet? A researcher invented a synthetic tree that can get rid of CO2. Klaus Lackner, from Columbia University in New York speak on how is invention works?

A The leafs are made from a plastic material that absorbs CO2 when it is dry and releases it again when it is moist. Standing in the wind the sorbent material loads up with CO2, it is then transferred into a chamber, from which the air can be removed.

ERASABLE PAPER

Q Xerox is working on an erasable paper that can be used multiple times. Bill McKee, of the public relations at Xerox Canada talks about the erasable paper. How is it possible to create erasable paper?

A The paper itself is just real paper, with a very thin coating of chemicals that contain light activated molecules. We pass it through a printer with an ultraviolet light bar that changes the colour of the pixels. The molecules change colour with the UV light and then through heat, erases everything on the page.

ANTI-POLLUTION CONCRETE

Q French company Ciments Calcia is proposing an anti-pollution concrete. Project manager Olivier Fourcault talks to us about it. How can you make anti-pollution concrete?

A The concrete doesn't absorb the pollution but it decomposes pollutant gases by chemical reactions produced by ultraviolet rays. We need to find other ways to get better air quality. By finding antipollution coating for frontage. And why not try to find solutions for interior pollution.

VINCENT FORTIER/
METRO WORLD NEWS

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PostGame

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Sports

Johnson joins 2,000-yard club

Chris Johnson, left, became the sixth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a season, then scored the go-ahead touchdown on a one-yard run with 4:33 remaining to send the Tennessee Titans to a 17-13 victory over the Seattle Seahawks yesterday. Johnson joined Eric Dickerson, Jamal Lewis, Barry Sanders, Terrell Davis and O.J. Simpson in the 2,000-yard club. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Canada through to final

WORLD JUNIORS

Canada 6 **Switzerland** 1

Marco Scandella scored short-handed and Taylor Hall had two goals as Canada booked a ticket in the final of the world junior hockey championship for the ninth year in a row with a 6-1 victory over Switzerland yesterday.

Canada will play the winner of the Sweden-U.S. game later last night in the final tomorrow (TSN, 8 p.m. ET). Canada has won a medal in 11 straight world junior tournaments and is gunning for a record sixth straight gold.

Switzerland, which pulled out a stunning 3-2 overtime win in the quarter-finals over Russia Saturday night, will play for the bronze medal. The only world junior medal won by the Swiss was a bronze at the 1998 tournament.

Jordan Eberle, Brayden Schenn and Stefan Della Rovere also scored for Canada, which outshot the Swiss 44-21 before a less than sellout crowd of 13,427 at the Credit Union Centre.

Mauro Jorg scored Switzerland's goal.

Canada scored on its first power play as a Ryan Ellis point shot deflected to Eberle, who beat Swiss goaltender Benjamin Conz with a high shot at 3:48.

The Canadians failed to add to their lead in the first despite 19 shots in the period.

The goal lifted Eberle into a tie with Jason Allison for second place all time in points among Canadians with 24. He also tied John Tavares for the goals record with his 12.

Alex Pietrangelo had two assists to give him 11 points in the tournament, tops among defencemen. Brandon McMillan also had two helpers.

In an earlier relegation game, the Czech Republic downed Latvia 10-2 on three goals from Tomas Knotek.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GEOFF HOWE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada's Marco Scandella, left, is congratulated on his goal by teammate Travis Hamonic during world junior hockey semifinal action yesterday versus Switzerland in Saskatoon.

Bosh sets record in win over Spurs

NBA

Spurs 86 **Raptors** 91

SPURS AT RAPTORS

Chris Bosh scored 22 points to become the Raptors' career leader in scoring as Toronto defeated the San Antonio Spurs 91-86 yesterday before a crowd of 18,323 at Air Canada Centre.

Bosh, who added 15 rebounds, finished the game with 9,428 regular-season points. Jarrett Jack scored 16 points and Andrea Bargnani added 15 for Toronto.

Tony Parker scored 23 for the Spurs. Tim Duncan, who started the game on the bench for only the second time in his career, scored 21.

The Raptors led by 14 at the half and by 12 after three quarters.

The Spurs had cut the lead to six but Bargnani drained a three-pointer to put the Raptors ahead 77-68 with 6:54 left in the game.

The Spurs weren't done. Richard Jefferson cut the lead to seven points, and with 3:02 left Duncan made one of two free throws after being fouled by Bosh to make the score 81-75.

With 2:32 left, Duncan was fouled while scoring and made the free throw to pull the Spurs to within three at 81-78.

Bosh put the Raptors ahead 85-80 on a driving layup with 56 seconds left. But Keith Bogans hit a three-pointer with 12.4 seconds left and cut the Raptors lead to 85-83.

Bosh made two free throws with 11 seconds to make it 87-83.

The Raptors had a five-game winning streak end Saturday night with a 103-96 loss to the Celtics in Boston in which Bosh scored 25 points, leaving him within 14 points of tying Vince Carter's franchise scoring record of 9,420.

Bosh tied Carter's mark with a 17-foot jumper with 3:06 left in the third quarter to give the Raptors a 61-47 lead.

He set the club record with a 16-foot jumper with 1:39 to go in the third quarter to put the Raptors ahead 65-51.

Raptors point guard Jose Calderon, who has not played since Dec. 11 because of a sore left hip, is expected to play Wednesday in Orlando depending on how he practises tomorrow. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sports in brief

LEAFS The Toronto Maple Leafs will be without Mikhail Grabovski for six weeks due to a broken wrist while fellow forward Wayne Primeau will miss two to four weeks with a knee injury, the team announced yesterday.

SOCCER Real Madrid missed its chance to go to top of the Spanish league yesterday after being held to a 0-0 draw at Osasuna. A win would have put Madrid level on points with Barcelona and ahead on goal difference after the Catalans drew 1-1 against Villarreal Saturday.

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Oilers players reach agreement over disputed restaurant bill

The manager of an upscale Calgary restaurant has reached an agreement with Edmonton Oilers players after a dispute over a nearly $17,000 tab they rang up at a New Year's Eve party.

Maurizio Terrigno refused to elaborate yesterday what the deal entails and wouldn't even say whether the agreement has been resolved to his satisfaction.

The restaurant manager, who publicly vented his fury just days ago, is now reluctant to discuss the end result of his beef over unpaid portions of the restaurant bill. "I can't," Terrigno said, but wouldn't explain further.

Instead, he referred any further inquiries to the Edmonton Oilers. Team officials couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

After going public with his complaint, Terrigno said team members "went ballistic" when they got the final bill for a night out with their guests and would only pay just more than $12,000 on the nearly $17,000 worth of food and alcohol charges.

A team spokesman had previously said the restaurant had reduced the bill after players complained.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sanctions for Southern California
Southern California is imposing sanctions on its basketball program for violating NCAA rules involving former player O.J. Mayo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys clinch NFC East crown

Dallas won a division title, Baltimore earned a wild-card spot, the Super Bowl champs headed home, and the NFL's last playoff spot went down to the final game.

Next week's first round will include at least two rematches of games yesterday, and possibly three. The playoffs won't include the defending champion Pittsburgh Steelers.

While Tony Romo and the Cowboys romped over Philadelphia 24-0 to help set the NFC matchups, the AFC pairings still were unsettled.

The Ravens (9-7) grabbed one AFC wild-card spot when they beat Oakland 21-13, leaving only Houston and the New York Jets in contention for the other berth.

That left it all up to last night's game between Cincinnati and the Jets at the frigid Meadowlands. New York gets a wild-card berth with a victory, the Texans get it with a Cincinnati win. A Jets victory guarantees they play at Cincinnati in the first round.

This much was certain: No cold-weather games in the second round. Hosts Minnesota, New Orleans and Indianapolis play inside domes, and San Diego is the other site.

MIKE FUENTES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Miles Austin comes down with a reception yesterday against the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Cowboys won the NFC East by defeating Philadelphia 24-0. The teams will meet again next weekend at Cowboys Stadium in the wild-card round. Dallas swept Philadelphia this season to earn the division crown, dropping the Eagles to the sixth seed, both at 11-5.

Kurt Warner and the Cardinals will host the Packers next weekend after Green Bay (11-5) beat them 33-7 yesterday. Arizona (10-6), the NFC's third seed a year ago, will be No. 4 this time.

Baltimore will be at either New England or Cincinnati in the wild-card round. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leeds stuns Man U with FA Cup knockout

Third-tier Leeds knocked Manchester United out of the FA Cup in one of the competition's most famous upsets yesterday while defending champion Chelsea outplayed Watford in a 5-0 victory to reach the fourth round.

Arsenal came from behind to win 2-1 at West Ham with two late goals in a five-minute spell by Aaron Ramsey and Eduardo da Silva.

Jermaine Beckford's 19th-minute strike at Old Trafford gave League One leader Leeds a memorable victory at a ground where it had not won since 1981.

Leeds became the first team to knock United out in the third round since Harry Redknapp's Bournemouth in 1984, two years before Sir Alex Ferguson took charge. United has won the trophy five times under Ferguson and holds the record of 11 FA Cup triumphs.

Ferguson was scathing about the performance from the Premier League champions for the past three seasons.

"I didn't expect that," Ferguson said. "I'm shocked at the performance. Leeds fought like tigers, you would expect that when they come to Old Trafford for an FA Cup tie. They are human beings, they can always surprise you.

"Beckford has got a lot of pace up front and we were caught napping, really. It was a bad goal for us to lose but the whole performance was bad."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's Called Football

Ben Rycroft

will return next week

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa 7 Philadelphia 4
Buffalo 1 Montreal 0
Chicago 5 Anaheim 2
Florida 6 Pittsburgh 2

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Calgary 3 TORONTO 1
Vancouver 3 Dallas 1
San Jose 4 Edmonton 1
Carolina 2 N.Y. Rangers 1 (OT)
Chicago 6 St. Louis 3
Colorado 3 Columbus 2
Detroit 4 Phoenix 1
Los Angeles 2 Washington 1
Nashville 3 Anaheim 1
New Jersey 5 Minnesota 3
N.Y. Islanders 6 Atlanta 5 (SO)
Tampa Bay 3 Pittsburgh 1

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 91 San Antonio 86
Charlotte 91 Cleveland 88
New York 132 Indiana 89
Philadelphia at Denver
Dallas at L.A. Lakers

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 20 Tampa Bay 10
Baltimore 21 Oakland 13
Buffalo 30 Indianapolis 7
Carolina 23 New Orleans 10
Chicago 37 Detroit 23
Cleveland 23 Jacksonville 17
Dallas 24 Philadelphia 0
Green Bay 33 Arizona 7
Houston 34 New England 27
Kansas City 44 Denver 24
Minnesota 44 N.Y. Giants 7
Pittsburgh 30 Miami 24
San Diego 23 Washington 20
San Francisco 28 St. Louis 6
Tennessee 17 Seattle 13
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets

The Hidden Cost of Tickets and Accidents

Your Driving Record Impacts Your Your Car Insurance Rate

Just How Costly Are Tickets And Accidents?

Between paying fines, insurance deductibles, and other out-of-pocket expenses, most people understand tickets and accidents can be costly. What many people DON'T know is that there is usually another "hidden" cost which is just around the corner. It comes in the form of higher insurance rates. This is because insurance companies look at your driving record and insurance history, including any tickets or accidents you've had, as a key factor in setting their rates. And this is why drivers with cleaner driving records, on average, find they are able to obtain lower insurance rates.

Does This Mean I'm Doomed To Pay A Bundle?

NO! For the driver with tickets and accidents, there is good news and hope of lowering your rate. In fact, there are some drivers with tickets or accidents that are actually paying LESS than similar drivers with clean driving records. Certain insurance companies actually target this type of risk and have competitive rates. The trick is finding those companies – which is easier than you think… if you know where to look.

What's The REAL Secret To Lowering Your Rate?

The simplest and easiest thing you can do to lower your rate right now is to SHOP AROUND. Why? Because the rates charged by different insurance companies to insure the same driver, with the same car, for the same coverage, can vary by hundreds and even thousands of dollars. Take a look at the table below.

The key is finding the one insurance company that can offer the lowest rate available for your driving profile. InsuranceHotline.com offers an independent, unbiased rate comparison from over 30 of the top insurance companies in Canada to find you the lowest rate for your profile and then connects you with a licensed broker or agent who can provide the policy. It is fast, safe and FREE.

Start Saving Your Money Now.

InsuranceHotline.com puts you in the driver seat by making insurance companies compete for your business. Think of it as a one-stop shop for lowering your car insurance rate. There is never any obligation. You decide if you're interested in the rate provided and whether you want to move your business. So don't waste another minute. Go online to InsuranceHotline.com and start saving your money now.

Rate Comparison

Driving Record	Lowest Price	Highest Price	Price Difference
Clean Record	$958	$2,213	$1,255
1 Ticket	$1,018	$2,552	$1,534
1 Accident	$1,849	$3,753	$1,904

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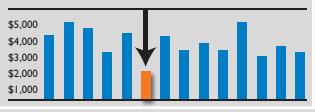

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Workology

Hiring, full or part time?

Twenty per cent of employers plan to increase their number of full-time, permanent employees in 2010, up from 14 per cent in 2009, according to a CareerBuilder study. Eleven per cent of employers plan say they plan to add part-time employees in 2010, up slightly from 9 per cent in 2009.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Video resumés: The future?

JON TATTRIE
AND BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

The paper resumé may be becoming as dated as the cigarettes and sexism of Mad Men, with websites, blogs and video resumes taking the future of recruiting online.

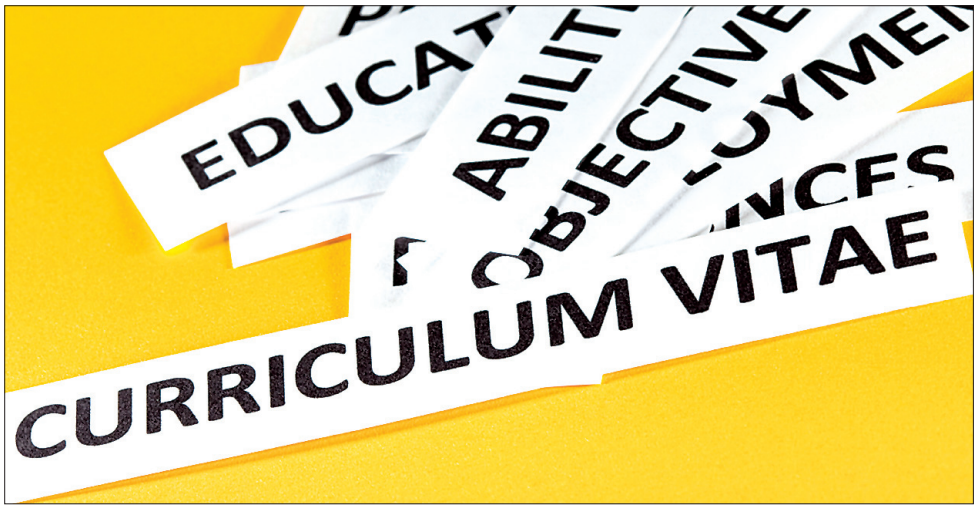
When Much Music wanted a new VJ, it opened the VJ 2.0 contest to anyone who could wow them with a video resumé. When The Score wanted a new on-air personality, it launched Drafted, a multimedia online contest for the coveted spot.

Derek Snider, host and manager of new media for The Score, says the web has radically changed the way people recruit.

"Broadcasting used to be one of those fields where it wasn't necessarily what you knew, but who you knew," he says, adding that hiring a decade ago would have meant asking around the office. "We wanted to cast a really wide net (with Drafted)."

That web caught 3,000 applicants as the online process opened the door to top talent across the country. Web presence counted heavily and the serious contenders had Twitter-sized bios and video resumés.

"Some were … basically broadcast quality, and that really gave them an edge over some of the other applicants. There were also some videos that were really intriguing, but weren't high-end," Snider says. "We're not (just) looking for a broadcaster, we're looking for somebody who's really comfortable and confident in who they are, and that comes across on camera."



In some industries — broadcasting especially — the days of the paper resumé may be coming to an end, some experts say.

> **"We coach (people) to market their personal brand most effectively. If you don't do it in an effective way, it can actually hinder your ability to find employment."** Manpower's Byrne Luft

The old ink-on-dead-tree approach just doesn't cut it anymore. "When it comes to broadcasting, it may well be the end of the paper resumé. Video and people that have their own websites and blogs would certainly show us their abilities," he says. "It really shows you what they're capable of, outside of standing in front of a camera and saying the Leafs beat the Canadiens 4-3 last night."

Byrne Luft is vice-president of marketing for Manpower Canada, which just launched Jobs2Web, a tool that allows companies to boost their search-engine presence for job postings.

"When a person is looking for a particular job, our clients' jobs will show up on the first page of any Google, Yahoo, Bing or MSN organic search," Luft explains.

They also broadcast jobs on social media like Twitter and Facebook, which gets them in the minds of people not actively looking for work, but who might be lured into a new position.

Video resumés highlight the applicant's "soft skill abilities" in a more time-efficient way than initial sit-down interviews, he says. It also means a boss can easily forward the link to colleagues who may have a more suitable position.

But there's a huge risk if you don't monitor your online presence and your potential boss comes across photos and blogs that throw an unflattering light on you.

"When candidates come to Manpower, we coach them … to market their personal brand most effectively," Luft says. "If you don't do it in an effective way, it can actually hinder your ability to find employment."

Luft sees a future for paper, though. "You still have a group of people who still like to have that piece of paper in front of them," he laughs.

Employers expect uptick in hiring for 2010 year

2010 The encouraging news regarding the economy may be easing hiring fears, as employers signal an increase in their plans to hire in the new year, according to CareerBuilder's 2010 Job Forecast. CareerBuilder surveyed more than 2,700 hiring managers and human resource professionals nationwide across industries.

"Although 20 per cent of employers plan to add headcount in 2010, up from 14 per cent last year, they still remain cautious in regards to their hiring. We're headed in the right direction but should not expect to see actual job growth until at least Q2 2010," said Matt Ferguson, CEO of CareerBuilder. Even as companies continue to watch their spending, they still plan slight increases to salaries in the coming year. Fifty-seven per cent of employers report their companies will increase salaries for existing employees in 2010. Thirty-six per cent expect to raise salaries of existing employees by three per cent or more, while 11 per cent anticipate increases of five per cent or more.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

OddJobs

Diane Peters

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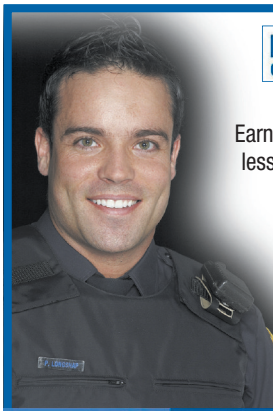

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Green jobs, another trend for 2010
Employers will continue to turn some of their focus to the environment in the new year, according to CareerBuilder. Eleven per cent of employers say they plan to add "green jobs" in 2010. "Green jobs" are positions that implement environmentally conscious design, policy and technology. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Job trends for 2010

One main trend for the coming year for companies will be strengthening their brand through social media.

Some companies plan to look toward the future and make up for lost ground caused by the recession. Here are some of the employment trends for 2010:

Replacing Lower-Performing Employees
Employers are taking advantage of the large number of top talent in the current labor pool to strengthen their work force. Thirty-seven per cent of employers say they plan to replace lower-performing employees with higher-performers.

Emphasis on Social Media to Strengthen Brand
The economy required companies to make some tough decisions about their businesses, which had a negative impact on their brands. Close to four-in-10 employers plan to put a greater emphasis on social media in 2010 to create a more positive brand for their organization. One-in-five employers plan to add social media responsibilities to a current employee, while close to one-in-12 plan to hire someone new.

Rehiring Laid-off Workers
Companies needed to scale their businesses to market last year and four-in-10 employers say they were forced to lay off workers. Among those who had lay-offs in 2009, 32 per cent of employers say they plan to bring back workers with three-in-10 either doing it now or plan to do so in the first six months of 2010.

Flexible Work Arrangements
Companies plan to continue providing employees with greater flexibility in hopes of maintaining a better work-life balance. Thirty-five per cent of employers say they plan to provide more flexible work arrangements in 2010, compared to 31 per cent last year. These arrangements include:

- Alternate schedules
- Telecommuting options
- Compressed workweeks
- Summer hours
- Job sharing
- Sabbaticals
- Cutting Benefits

Even as companies look to the new year and toward growth opportunities for their businesses, many are still choosing to trim perks and benefits.

Rehiring Retirees and Postponing Retirement
Companies understand the intellectual capital mature workers bring to their organization and 27 per cent say they are open to retaining their workers who are approaching retirement. Sixteen per cent say they are likely to rehire retirees from other companies in 2010. Additionally, one-in-10 are likely to provide incentives for workers at or approaching retirement age to stay on with the company longer.

Freelance or Contract Hiring
While employers still plan to be cautious regarding the number of full-time employees they add in the new year, many will turn to freelance or contract employees to help keep their businesses moving forward. Three-in-10 employers anticipate hiring freelancers or contractors in 2010, up slightly from 28 per cent in 2009.

Bilingual Recruitment
Employers have identified having a diverse work force as an important measure of success as they begin to rebuild their businesses after the economic downturn. One area they plan to focus on is building a bilingual team. Nearly four-in-ten employers said they plan to hire bilingual candidates in 2010.

Business Travel
While employers are inching away from cost containment and more into growth, one area they still plan to save money on is business travel. Forty-three per cent of employers say that in their organizations there will be less business travel in 2010 than in 2009.
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Barkley, Weaver to host SNL

Charles Barkley and Sigourney Weaver will host the first two new episodes of Saturday Night Live in 2010. The basketball legend will guest on the Jan. 9 show. On Jan. 16, Weaver, currently appearing in Avatar, will host. EW.COM

Entertainment

Grunge reunion

Former Soundgarden frontman Chris Cornell confirmed via Twitter that the band is getting back together. "The 12 year break is over & school is back in session," Cornell tweeted. EW.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Feel good about getting naked

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

To be honest, the series How To Look Good Naked Canada could just as easily be called How To Feel Good Naked Canada.

"The show goes beyond a new haircut or attractive clothes," says Zain Meghji, the ever-present, enthusiastic host of the new W makeover series.

"Granted, it's a TV show. But for the women, it's like going through a personal development course all in one week. There's a psychological aspect to it. And I'm their guide on their journey to rediscover themselves."

Based on the smash hit British version, How To Look Good Naked Canada does in fact deliver on its naughty title — with participating women beginning each episode in their underwear before a full length mirror. What then ensues are some of the usual makeover segments and beauty tips, all culminating in a nude photo shoot.

"Literally, she begins the show stripped down," says Meghji, who has worked as an actor and entertainment reporter for TV's eTalk.

"She's exposed, vulnerable and forced to look at herself and tell us what she likes about her body. Then it's all about accentuating the best, and dressing the rest."

It can be quite an emotional ride for participating women, many of whom suffer from serious long-term self-image issues. In the premiere episode, for instance, a single Toronto mother recounts the sad story of being called "fat and ugly" by her mother.

Zain Meghji hosts the new W makeover series How To Look Good Naked Canada.

Meghji says many participants don't have full length mirrors and haven't looked at themselves in years. "Some women don't even know what they look like. They're making up a story without even looking.

"You gotta look! You gotta accept!"

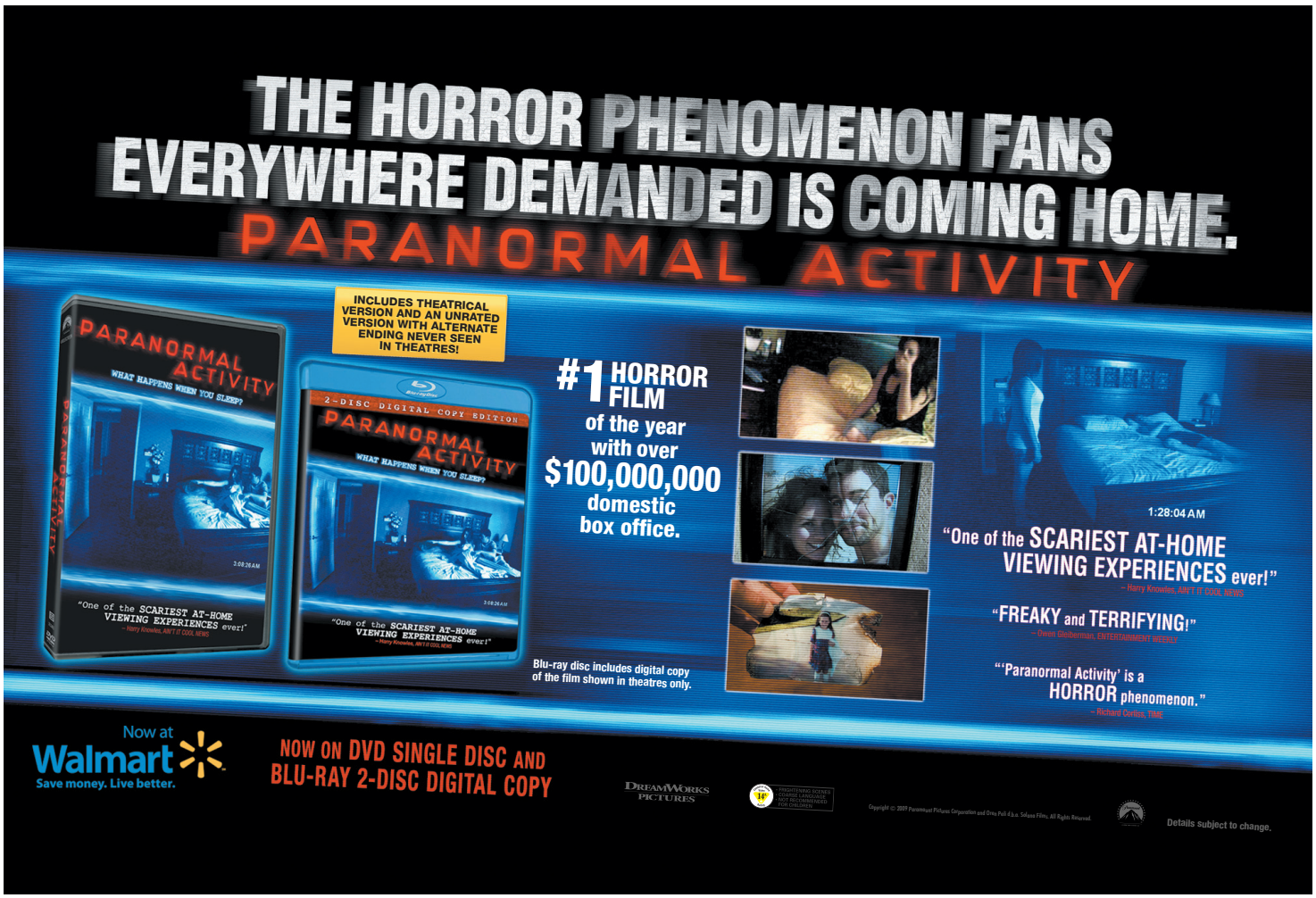
Not that the show is always successful. Meghji says many participants do feel truly better about themselves by the end of the series. Some … not so much.

"Each woman reacts differently. Some go through it and say — I'm forever changed. But you wonder — are they really?" he says.

"Some you can see in their eyes that they have changed. And some women are resistant even when it's done."

On TV

- Episodes one and two of How To Look Good Naked Canada premieres tomorrow night on W.



Animal Collective tops HMV poll
Music critics have voted U.S. psychedelic dance act Animal Collective's record Merriweather Post Pavilion the album of the year. The New York-based indie band topped HMV's annual "poll of polls" for 2009. ANANOVA.COM

The Good Wife tries to forgive

Hit TV show explores scandal, infidelity

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

The makers of The Good Wife owe something of a debt to Tiger Woods' ongoing personal troubles.

"Honestly, it was suggested we should send him flowers," says actress Christine Baranski (Cybil, Mamma Mia, Chicago).

"These incidents of famous men cheating on their wives keep happening. I read today where it was suggested that the thing Tiger's wife should do is to appear beside him in a show of support. Again, that's our show." Christine Baranski

"Since we shot the pilot, these incidents of famous men cheating on their wives keep happening. I read today where it was suggested that the thing Tiger's wife should do is to appear beside him in a show of support. Again, that's our show."

Christine Baranski plays a lawyer on the hit TV show The Good Wife.

The Good Wife stars Julianna Marguilies as Alicia, the wife of disgraced politician Peter Florrick (Chris Noth), who is caught in a corruption/hooker scandal that puts him in jail. Humiliated, Alicia is forced back to work as a lawyer under the tutelage of Diane Lockhart (Baranski).

A hit for CBS, the show effectively taps into that oft-debated tabloid question — if your spouse humiliated you in public, would you still stand by him?

"You're certainly not going to get an answer out of me on that," says Baranski. "It's that question that keeps the show interesting. Would you try to keep the marriage alive? Could you live with him?"

The Emmy-winning Baranski says her Good Wife character is still a work-in-progress.

"Early on, the show had to concentrate on the main character and her dilemma. So my character didn't get a lot of time to develop," she says.

"I didn't want her to be the obvious bitch-boss. And I think the writers are doing a good job of defining the character and easing me into the part."

The Good Wife returns with new episodes tomorrow night on Global.

Beyond The Good Wife, Baranski recently recreated her role as Leonard's mom on the hit sitcom The Big Bang Theory — even locking lips with everyone's favourite pretentious brainiac Sheldon (Jim Parsons).

"It's a fantastically original show. So funny. So it was a pleasure," she says.

As for the future of The Good Wife, Baranski doesn't fear her much-hyped timeslot competition — The Jay Leno Show.

"No worries," she laughs.

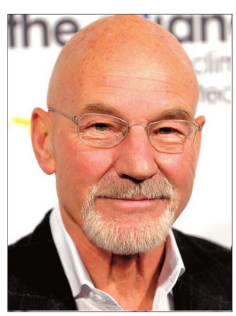
Stewart receives knighthood

There's an especially starry knight in Britain's latest round of royal honours.

Patrick Stewart — Star Trek: The Next Generation's Capt. Jean-Luc Picard — becomes Sir Patrick in Queen Elizabeth II's New Year honours list, which also includes a knighthood for theatre and film director Nicholas Hytner.

"This is an honour that embraces those actors, directors and creative teams who have in these recent years helped fill my life with inspiration, companionship and sheer fun," said 69-year-old Stewart, who recently returned to the British stage following a long career in Hollywood that included playing Professor Charles Xavier in three X-Men films.

Erich Reich, a refugee from Nazi-occupied Europe who organized last year's 70th anniversary of the Kindertransport, which brought 10,000 children to wartime Britain, also received a knighthood.


Patrick Stewart

A separate honours list in New Zealand bestowed a knighthood on the king of Middle Earth — Lord of the Rings filmmaker Peter Jackson.

Jackson, 53, was knighted in New Zealand, his native land and the filming location for the trilogy, which collected 17 Academy Awards. The New Zealand award is approved by the queen, the country's head of state.

Jackson is currently working on the two-movie prequel The Hobbit, also based on a book by J.R.R. Tolkien, with Mexican director Guillermo del Toro.

In Britain, lesser honours went to Rick Parfitt and Francis Rossi of the rock group Status Quo. They were named Officers of the Order of the British Empire, or OBE, in recognition of a four-decade, three-chord career that has seen them score 64 British hit singles, including Rockin' All Over the World.

Parfitt, 61, said he'd given up hope of an honour because of his wild past.

"If they'd reviewed some of my old newspaper cuttings!" he said.

Phyllida Lloyd, who directed Mamma Mia! — the most financially successful British film of all time — was named Commander of the Order of the British Empire, or CBE.

CBEs also went to artist Maggi Hambling and Olivier Award-winning actress Margaret Tyzack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama watched Avatar

President Barack Obama's family spent part of the last day of 2009 watching the futuristic adventure film Avatar. The Obamas visited a movie theatre near their rented vacation home in Hawaii on Thursday morning for a screening of the 3-D hit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Metro's picks to become Oscar flicks

10 films that will surely get a look from the Academy this year

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The Academy Awards are fast approaching, so it's time for everyone to chime in with their thoughts about which films are bound for Oscar glory. With that in mind, we present a list of ten films we think will be eligible for little gold statues.

UP IN THE AIR This melancholic comedy is the film of the moment. The satirical examination of a man who fires people for a living and lives through his blackberry might not age well, but it will get plenty of attention this year.

THE HURT LOCKER Action specialist Kathryn Bigelow (Point Break) surprised critics and audiences with arguably the finest film made about the Iraq war. The movie has been cleaning up the critic's awards and is sure to do well with the typically left-wing Academy.

UP Pixar has been collecting best animated film Oscars for years and is the frontrunner in 2009 as well (although Coraline deserves serious attention). Don't be surprised if the film also scores a well-deserved best picture nod and possibly even wins.

INGLOURIOUS BASTERDS Most other years Quentin Tarantino's bizarre reinvention of the Second World War probably wouldn't be in the running, but with 10 best picture spots available there's no way this get won't get attention. Christoph Waltz's name should have been printed on a statue for his unforgettable Nazi back in August.

PRECIOUS This Toronto International Film Festival Audience Award winner about a troubled young girl might not be easy to watch, but has been the subject of Oscar predictions ever since the Toronto premiere. The film won't take away the big prize, but it is practically guaranteed a nomination and will probably bring home a statue for Mo'nique (who could have predicted that?).

AVATAR The last time James Cameron made the most expensive movie of all time he declared himself the king of the world on the Oscar stage. That won't happen this year, but the surprisingly effective Avatar should sneak in with a best picture nomination and will deservingly dominate the technical categories.

AN EDUCATION This charmingly British coming-of-age tale about a university-bound private school girl and a mysterious older man might not be groundbreaking, but warm and safe issue movies like this tend to win over the Academy. Nominations for Alfred Molina's scene stealing supporting turn and Carey Mulligan's captivating lead performance are assured.

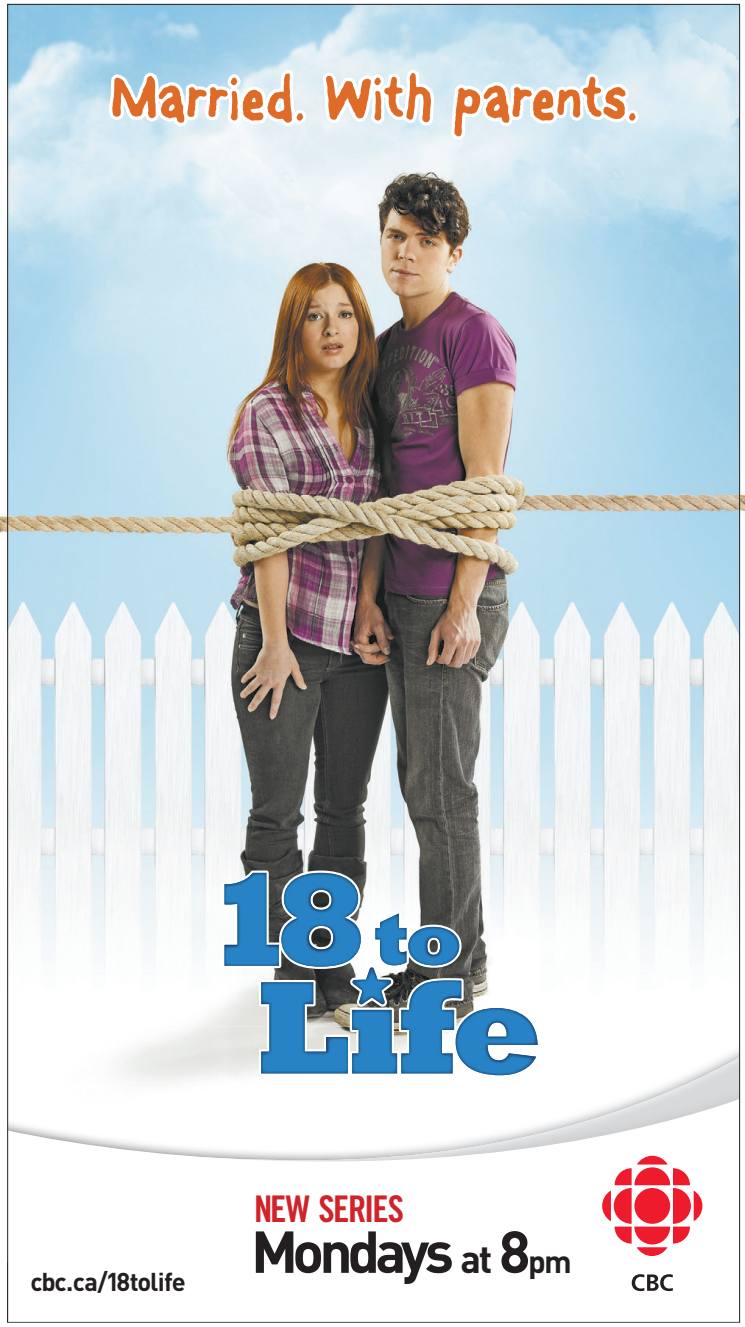
THE WHITE RIBBON Michael Haneke's tense and difficult black and white allegory won the top prize at Cannes this year and should be considered the front-runner for the foreign language film statue (if Haneke doesn't scare off the voters again). It deserves best picture consideration too, but that won't happen.

A SERIOUS MAN The Coen Brothers scored again with one of their most bizarre, hilarious, and oddly personal films to date. In the past the Coens would have been ignored, but after the No Country For Old Men sweep they have become Oscar darlings and should be recognized for this unconventional, but deserving film.

DISTRICT 9 This intelligent and action-packed sci-fi flick isn't an obvious Oscar contender, but is one of the best films of 2009. It has more to say about South Africa that the clumsy Invictus and will pop up in the screenplay and effects categories even if it doesn't get nominated for the big prize.

Brad Pitt stars in the Quentin Tarantino directed Inglourious Basterds.

James Cameron's Avatar will get looks by the Academy this year.



Movie industry surviving the recession

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

MONEY For a year when "bailout" and "layoff" became buzzwords in everyday conversation there was good news in Hollywood.

Attendance at U.S. theatres actually increased by five per cent in 2009 and research firm OTX reported consumers ranked movie going as the best value for their entertainment dollar.

That's the good news, but even though movie money doesn't seem to be in short supply it isn't business as usual in Tinsel Town. The average moviegoer, however, probably won't see a difference.

"In the end I don't think the consumers will notice the difference at all," says MovieCityNews.com editor David Poland.

"It's gotten to the point that there are so many studio movies in any given week there is often a lost movie or two. Customers may find it a little less frustrating (next year) because there may be fewer titles being advertised and fewer titles that make them think 'I wish I could have gone to that if it was still in the theatres three weeks after I first saw the ad.'"

The business, however, is changing. The buzzwords of the biz is "risk displacement."

"My sense isn't that lower budget or riskier movies will dry up; instead, I see the big budget and low budget films continuing, but the middle dropping out," says Cameron Bailey, co-director of the Toronto International Film Festival.

"Paramount's recently announced start-up of an ultra low-budget digital division on the heels of Paranormal Activity is one sign. Avatar is another.

What I think we'll see much less of is the $15-$40 million star-driven drama, the kind that wins awards."

2009 confirmed Bailey's theory.

Among the victims of downsizing were the $30 million Cate Blanchett vehicle Indian Summer and a film adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear, starring Anthony Hopkins, Gwyneth Paltrow, Naomi Watts and Keira Knightley.

"I don't like that hollowing out sound I hear in the industry," says Bailey, "and I hope it's just a stage in an ongoing evolution."

Rap producer up on murder charge
Music producer Demetrius Lee Stewart, known as Shawty Redd, is being held in a suburban Atlanta jail on a murder charge. Stewart is accused of shooting 35-year-old Damon A. Martin of Detroit in an argument at Stewart's home. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Accidently on Purpose finding an audience

Montreal native speaks about his big hollywood break and the success of the suddenly popular comedy

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

For Montrealer Nicolas Wright, the big Hollywood break came almost too late.

"It was really last minute. Like the last week of pilot season. The last year of my (work) Visa," says Wright, who plays the lovable slacker Davis in the CBS/City-TV comedy Accidentally on Purpose with Jenna Elfman.

"Several times I'd gotten to the point where it was me or some other guy and then not got the part. I got some good feedback, but I was exhausted by the whole process. But somehow, thru the grace of whatever, I got this one."

Not an immediate hit, Accidentally On Purpose looked like it might be a fall TV casualty. But then, for whatever reason, its audience began to grow, earning an order from the network for more.

"We weren't a breakout hit or anything, so in some ways it really feels like we earned it," says Wright, 27, who is best known to Canadians as the hopelessly neurotic film maker Rufus Marquez on the hit IFC/TMN series The Festival, later redubbed The Business.

Nicholas Wright stars in Accidently on Purpose.

"I'm not sure it (Accidentally On Purpose) ever got to the point where it was going to be cancelled. But if the viewers keep going down, it sure isn't a good trend. I think we're really hitting our stride now and people are starting to tune in."
Nicolas Wright

"I'm not sure it (Accidentally On Purpose) ever got to the point where it was going to be cancelled. But if the viewers keep going down, it sure isn't a good trend. I think we're really hitting our stride now and people are starting to tune in."

Wright's Accidentally character is best described as the comedy sidekick to Zack (Jon Foster) who, as the sitcom story goes, is having a baby with the much-older Elfman.

"Davis is sorta this leach whose there to keep the mood up — he's there to entertain,"

But though he's now seen by millions every week, Wright says he rarely gets recognized.

"Maybe once. I got recognized for a Tim Horton's commercial I did, which got played to death. I remember some guy at Subway suddenly looking up and doing my line from the commercial. What can I say? You got me dude."

Accidentally On Purpose airs Mondays.

Must-see mid-season TV

PREVIEWS It's been a pretty good fall season, but really, in some ways it doesn't compare to what's coming ahead at mid-season.

From highly anticipated returning series, new shows and the return of some big-ticket shows that the networks knew they could make us wait for, it's going to be an incredibly busy few months.

What follows is a quick chronological look at some series that we're looking forward too:

THE SIMPSONS (Sundays, Global and Fox, premieres Jan. 10): Celebrating their 20th year on the air, this episode is also their 450th, and really, it's going to more of the same wackiness.

The first episode is also followed by an hour-long 20th Anniversary special.

All we can say, obviously in our best Monty Burns voice: Excellent.

HOUSE (Global and Fox, premieres Jan. 11): Okay, so let's see, someone comes in with an unsolvable medical issue that no one but House can solve.

He's a total jerk and consistently comes up with solutions that only make the patient worse.

Then as we approach 8:50 p.m EST., voila, problem solved. That is every House episode ever aired, and it's still the number one show in Canada, so they're doing something right.

CHUCK (Sundays 9 p.m., Citytv and NBC, premieres Jan. 10): Zachary Levi's nerd goes ninja in the third season of this series, as Chuck can now upload skills as opposed to just information with the Intersect.
This means that we're sure he's going to be kicking some ass as opposed to watching others do it for him. Cool guest stars remain on tap.

24 (premieres Sunday Jan. 17): In keeping with their timely tradition, this series starts off with two back-to-back nights of two hour episodes to get you hooked, then moves to its regular Monday timeslot on Jan. 25.

In the opening minutes we see something we've never seen before — Jack happy!

Don't worry, it doesn't last.

LOST (premieres Feb. 2): What time is it?

Heck, what reality is it? We have no idea what world we're returning to after Juliet exploded that space-time shattering nuclear device but it's going to be riveting seeing what happens in this final season of this cult show.

It's a special two-hour kick off which we're sure will leave us equally delighted and utterly confused.

Whatever way you slice it, in the cold winter ahead, there will be plenty to keep your eyes on.

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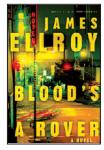
The dark side of the '60s



Blood's **A Rover**

Author: James Ellroy
Publisher: Knopf
Price: $35 (Hardcover)

FROM THE HEIST that opens this entertaining novel, Blood's A Rover takes readers on a thrilling ride through 1960s America. Completing James Ellroy's Underworld USA Trilogy after American Tabloid and The Cold Six Thousand, this book follows three central protagonists tied to dark back-stories of characters like aviator Howard Hughes and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, and groups like the mob and the CIA. Written in Ellroy's highly stylized tone, paired with high action and littered with timely racial jabs, the book captures an equally outstanding and gritty portrait of a country undergoing change.

BookPicks

L.A. **Noir**

Author: John Buntin
Publisher: Crown
Price: $32 (Hardcover)

GOVERNING MAGAZINE writer John Buntin presents a fantastic, well-rounded and researched account of Los Angeles' history between the 1920s and '60s, presenting the metropolis as a true vice city. The chronicle relays the biographies of two seeming opposites, related by outsider status: William Parker, LAPD chief and law enforcement reformer, and mobster Mickey Cohen. Following each man's growth and effect on the city, Buntin explores the L.A. underground, while discovering roots of the city's future social struggles. Coloured with celebrity appearances, the book brings culture, history and politics together in an urban background.

Last Night in **Twisted River**

Author: John Irving
Publisher: Random House
Price: $34.95 (Hardcover)

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S Androscoggin River is the symbolic title body that flows through the pages of American novelist John Irving's latest. Opening in the mid-1950s, Last Night In Twisted River follows Dominic Baciagulpo and his son Danny, employed in a logging camp kitchen. A water death that opens the novel and subsequent accidental killing urge the father and son to flee the camp, escaping to Massachusetts, Vermont, Iowa and Ontario over the book's 50-year span. Mixing conflicts of crime and Danny's struggles as a writer across locales, the novel can be haphazard in plot but remains in Irving's style.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

Lady Gaga loses her hat, not head during performance
It was "hats off" for Lady Gaga ... literally. During her performance of hit song Poker Face in Atlanta last week, a fan tossed a bouquet of flowers on stage, hitting the pop star in the head and knocking off her hat in the process. METRO NEWS SERVICES

2010: The year of living publicly

Socialite

Rea McNamara

Read her blog at metronews.ca/socialite

What can't social media do? Google "social media trends 2010," and you'll encounter the usual sea of predictions from relevant influencers and naysayers.

A top result is TrendSpotting Market Research's Trend Predictions in 140 Characters. Its "tweet style" forecasting makes for a breezy read of what it sees as buzz worthy — like transparency, location-sharing, and privacy.

It's an enlightening read from the frontline figures in social marketing and "technical evangelism," who continue to report warm and fuzzy web views.

Indeed, transparency and especially location-sharing are profitable bets: It's why many are banking on Foursquare, a smartphone app that mixes GPS-pinpoints with social gaming.

Part friend-finder, part city-guide, the application encourages users to "check in" at various locations around the city — and the world.

And then there's Blippy (A.K.A. the Twitter of personal finance), which simply asks: "What are your friends buying?" The service asks you and friends to "passively share" with one another credit card transactions. "Ashvin spent $16.47 at Amazon, Sammy spent $11.52 at iTunes," reads a screengrab of typical updates on Blippy's site.

So when Twitter CEO Evan Williams tweets a prediction forecasting the profitability of transparency ("Many of the great businesses of the next decade will be about making information about our behaviors more visible" he said), it conveniently leads to a 2010 trend I'll be following closely: Privacy.

After all, Facebook's no longer a "private" social network. Even though the recent privacy option changes comply with recommendations from Canada's Privacy Commission, your default update option isn't "only friends" or "friends of friends" — it's "everyone."

These changes were supposed to make privacy options easier. Instead, warns digital rights nonprofit Electronic Frontier Foundation, it "will actually reduce the amount of control users have over some of their personal data."

Is privacy dead then? Last week, a Twitter debate between British web 2.0 academic Andrew Keen and TechCrunch co-editor Erick Schonfeld settled on the following conclusion: "If 21st century default is living in public," wrote Keen. "Privacy will be the new scarcity."

But Schonfeld later blogged on TechCrunch a more practical view: "When public is the default, you deliberately select what to keep private instead of the other way around.

It's not that privacy disappears. But it becomes more a matter of emphasis and a conscious decision."

Twit-age suicide

• Does your New Year's Resolution involves cutting back on the social networks? If you're truly desperate, you can hang the noose with the Web 2.0 Suicide Machine (suicidemachine.org), a service that permanently deletes your Facebook or Twitter profile, removing friends, photos, tweets and followers within an hour.

It's 2010. Do you know where your friends are? Because we do.

Mix of Six

COMEDY
Debra DiGiovanni will be among the comedians testing new material during the Rivoli's Alt.Comedy Lounge. 332 Queen St. W. altdotcomedy lounge.com.

THEATRE
Virtuosity: A Song And Dance Revue by Vivian Reed is being staged at the Bluma Appel Theatre, 27 Front St. E. stlc.com.

ART
King Tut: The Golden King and the Great Pharaohs is still on display at the Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St. W. ago.net.

SCIENCE
Grand Canyon Adventure and Under the Sea are among the Imax films being screened daily at the Ontario Science Centre, 770 Don Mills Rd. ontariosciencecentre.ca

MUSEUM
Bound for Glory: Cutting-Edge Winter Sports Footwear is currently on display at the Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor St. W. batashoemuseum.ca

THEATRE
Theatre Passe Muraille, 16 Ryerson Ave., presents You Fancy Yourself on its main stage. Come see this theatrical extravaganza. passemuraille.on.ca

Castro's Saturday wedding

Jason Castro is a married man, according to tweets from guests at his wedding Saturday. The 22-year-old dreadlocked singer-songwriter, who finished fourth on Season 7 of American Idol, wed girlfriend Mandy Mayhall in his hometown near Dallas. PEOPLE.COM

In brief

ARREST Police say a man who appeared in a Discovery Channel reality show about crab fishing off Alaska is wanted for three bank robberies and has been arrested. Police in Illinois say they arrested 23-year-old Joshua Tel Warner early Thursday on the Oregon bank robbery warrant after a vehicle he was riding in was pulled over for a routine traffic stop. Police in Oregon say he is the same Josh Warner who appeared as a greenhorn deckhand on the king crab fishing boat Wizard in the Deadliest Catch earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alcohol in the auditorium?

Mirvish Productions OKs it for some shows

The first act is over and you're itching to imbibe. After waiting in long lines to reach the lobby, you face another huge crowd at the concession stand.

By the time you order and cash out, you only have three minutes to down that glass of Chardonnay and return to the auditorium before the second act starts. And you still have to go the bathroom.

It's a dilemma for those who'd like a drink during intermission, but Canada's largest theatrical producer is trying to take the edge off by allowing alcohol inside the auditorium for certain shows.

Mirvish Productions doesn't do it for intense dramas, mostly just musicals, including The Sound of Music and Fiddler on the Roof, which close Jan. 10. It's also allowing it for My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding, which breaks on Jan. 3 and returns Feb. 26, and the upcoming Rock of Ages, opening April 20.

The company first allowed audiences to sip in their seats a couple of years back for the Queen-inspired We Will Rock You.

"We don't do it as a profit centre, we do it more as a convenience for the patrons," Mirvish spokesman John Karastamatis said in a recent phone interview.

"For us, people get very frustrated that intermissions are usually only 10 to 20 minutes long. By the time they get their drink they can't finish it and they're upset ... and they have to leave it, and so it's more convenience than anything else for the customer." The move also marks a return to theatre's roots, he added, noting ancient Greek theatre-goers regularly tippled, as did those in Shakespeare's days. THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A scene from My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding, which returns to Toronto Feb. 26. It is one of the Mirvish musicals that is allowing theatre-goers to drink alcohol inside the auditorium.

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O'Donnell dating again

Rosie O'Donnell is no longer single. The comedian is now dating Tracy Kachtick-Anders, a Texas-based artist, O'Donnell's rep confirms to People magazine. POPEATER.COM

Young love and big expectations

18 to Life takes light-hearted look at teen marriage

CBC PHOTO

Peter Keleghan, from left to right, Ellen David, Michael Seater, Stacey Farber, Alain Goulem, and Angela Asher star in the new series 18 to Life, Mondays at 8 p.m. on CBC.

In the new CBC-TV sitcom 18 to Life, Michael Seater plays Tom Bellow, a gangly, charmingly ordinary 18-year-old who finds himself engaged to his neighbour after proposing in a game of truth or dare.

It's not exactly a situation to which the 22-year-old actor can personally relate.

"At 18, I think I had my first serious girlfriend, one of like two that I've had. I'm definitely not anywhere near being ready to commit to a marriage, let alone a relationship," the Toronto native told The Canadian Press in a recent telephone interview.

"When I was 12, my sister got married at 22 and I thought, 'She's a full-grown adult.' Now that I'm 22? I'm like, that is ... crazy. At 18, I couldn't even imagine it."

But it doesn't take much for Seater's character to pop the question to his childhood friend (and more recently, his girlfriend), Jessie Hill, played by Degrassi alum Stacey Farber.

There's no pregnancy or other plot contrivance dragging the teens to the altar in the pilot of 18 to Life, which airs today (CBC, 8 p.m. ET). Simply put, the characters just love one another, which appealed to Farber.

"I can't imagine being married right now," the 22-year-old Toronto native said. "But I think it's a really sweet idea. And I like that they get married out of love and not because Jessie's pregnant or something like that."

Catch 18 to Life on CBC tonight

The show is also about the couple's different-as-can-be parents, who become reluctant in-laws.

Seater's character's parents (played by veteran actors Peter Keleghan and Ellen David) are stern and conservative, and fume with disbelief at the news of the engagement.

Farber's character, meanwhile, lives with an almost imposingly liberal pair (Al Goulem and Angela Asher), whose hippy-dippy easygoing attitude (they even offer to lend the fledgling couple their copy of the Kama Sutra) obscures their own deep disapproval of the union — pretty much the only thing they share with their hated neighbours.

Over the course of 12 first-season episodes (the pilot was shot in 2008 in Montreal, with filming for the rest of the first season occurring over the summer), the three couples are thrown together in a variety of situations, while Farber and Seater's newlyweds navigate their transition into adulthood.

"I'm definitely not anywhere near being ready to commit to a marriage, let alone a relationship."
Michael Seater

Still, the tone remains fairly breezy, with an eye for that sweet spot between embarrassment and laughs.

The actors hope that the show delves further into humiliating humour in the future.

"Tom and Jessie are often the straight men in the show, because the parents are so wacky," Farber said. "So when I have an episode where I get to be ridiculous, that's more fun for me as an actor.

"I usually do have an issue with it initially, but that's just nerves. Then once we're on set and we shoot it and I see a finished product, since I've just been watching a few of the episodes, I'm usually happy with the more awkward episodes."

Added Seater: "If anything, sometimes I wish I had taken more risks and gone a bit bigger with stuff."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Crowds cheer Twain as she carries Olympic flame

Thousands braved a bitterly cold New Year's Day in the northern Ontario city of Timmins to watch a country music star take her turn as an Olympic torchbearer.

Shania Twain carried the torch the final 400 metres into Hollinger Park, cheered on by thousands of parka-clad fans who turned out to see the hometown hero in person.

On the web

• Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at metronews.ca/sports.

After making her final turn towards the stage, Twain paused, held the torch aloft in her mittened left hand, and waved to the crowd — all while flashing a radiant smile.

She then bounded the final few metres onto the stage, where she lit the Olympic cauldron.

"I feel proud, very proud," Twain told her fans.

"It's a highlight of my life to be able to carry the flame, to light the cauldron."

Those who turned out for Twain's run probably wished they too had a searing hot flame as the early evening windchill was making it feel like -39 C.

It was so cold that when the celebration's MC tossed about a dozen red beach balls into the crowd, only minutes before Twain's arrival, the balls came apart within seconds.

Despite the arctic temperatures, Twain told a cheering crowd it was "beautiful" to be back in northern Ontario.

"I know that sounds crazy, but it wouldn't be Timmins if it wasn't 40 below (with) the windchill factor!" she said.

An international superstar and five-time Grammy winner, Twain was born in Windsor, Ont., but spent most of her youth in Timmins, honing her talents by performing in local bars and clubs.

Her 1997 record Come on Over has sold more than 34 million copies, making it the bestselling album by a female artist of all time and winning her fans around the globe. Her many hits include You're Still the One, I'm Gonna Getcha Good, Party for Two, and That Don't Impress Me Much.

Mayor Tom Laughren said the size of the crowd showed just how much residents appreciated their homegrown star.

"We just want to thank you, Shania, for being so gracious to do the last leg for us," he told Twain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Passing the torch

• The Shania Twain Centre has a new addition to its exhibits, thanks to its namesake. The singer donated her Olympic torch and clothing to the centre in Timmins, Ont., on Saturday. Twain says one addition makes her torch unique — she put hockey tape on the base of her torch so she wouldn't drop it. Twain carried the torch through Timmins on New Year's Day.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shania Twain

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metro

Chequebook journalism a growing concern: Expert

Policies forbidding payment for news interviews are being increasingly blurred by U.S. television networks vying for access to accidental celebrities.

Three of the past month's accidental celebrities — Jasper Schuringa, the Dutch tourist who helped thwart an attack on a Detroit-bound plane; David Goldman, who took a custody fight for his son to Brazil; and the White House party-crashing Salahis — have either sought or received goodies from TV networks eager to hear their stories.

Schuringa gave interviews to outlets that had agreed to purchase blurry cellphone images he'd taken of a man who authorities say tried to use explosives to take down the plane. Goldman and his son accepted NBC's offer of a ride home from Brazil on a charter airplane.

Representatives for Michaele and Tareq Salahi, who embarrassed the Obama administration by sneaking into a state dinner, were reportedly seeking six-figure bids from networks.

In this NBC archive photo, the Salahis appear on the Today Show after they infamously crashed the White House State dinner.

"I don't know if people would have thought of that in the past," said Andy Schotz, head of the ethics committee for the Society of Professional Journalists.

"But now often the first thing people think of is to get a publicist, a lawyer and an agent and figure out how to make money" from instant notoriety, he said.

The society condemned NBC for "checkbook journalism" with the Goldman trip. NBC said it had already chartered a plane to bring its personnel back from Brazil, and Goldman's lawyer said the invitation was accepted so father and son could avoid being accosted on the way home.

But NBC took multiple pictures and interviewed Goldman on the plane before his exclusive interview for the morning news show Today with Meredith Vieira.

And the network seems immune to the industry's financial troubles: A chartered jet from Brazil to New York would cost about $90,000 US, according to Blue Star Jets, a New York City-based charter company.

Policies against paying for interviews are in place to avoid distorting the news. The concern is that news subjects will change their stories to make them more valuable or please those who paid them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/4/10	265	353	2	TVO	Time Team (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Midsomer Murders		The Last Nazis (N)		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Heroes (HDTV) Claire is suspicious of Samuel. (N)				Drop Dead Diva "Pilot"		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	18 to Life	Little Mosque	Winnipeg Comedy		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (N)				The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Law & Order		Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Dinner at Fred's* ★ (1997, Comedy) Gil Bellows, Parker Posey.				*Serving Sara* ★ (2002, Comedy) Matthew Perry.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	The Insider (N)	Music Speaks	*To Have and to Hold* (2006, Suspense) Justine Bateman.				The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	King Kaboom
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Heroes (HDTV) Claire is suspicious of Samuel. (N)				The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor: On the Wings of Love (N)				Conveyor Belt of Love		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	*Meet Joe Black* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Brad Pitt, Anthony Hopkins, Claire Forlani.						A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Foot. Pregame	(8:15) College Football Tostitos Fiesta Bowl -- Boise State vs. Texas Christian. From Glendale, Ariz.						
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow (N)		This Emotional Life "Family, Friends & Lovers" (DVS)				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	One Tree Hill (HDTV)		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: SVU		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show		According-Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	One Tree Hill
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		Beatles Rocked the Kremlin		National
	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		eBay Effect: Worldwide Obsession			*Welcome to Macintosh* (2008, Documentary)			Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Best Damn Top 50 Special		Best Damn Toughman		Skiing	Hockey	Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Boston Bruins at New York Rangers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy
family	551	542	25	YTV	Scorpion	Scorpion	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz (N)	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Scooby-Doo	Total Drama	Total Drama	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad	Futurama	Robot Chicken
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Dine With Me	How Clean Is	Love It or List It "Shanahan"		Love It or List It		Confidential
	570	580	29	MM	Secret Life of American Teen		So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Intervention (HDTV)		Intervention "Sarah" (N)		Hoarders "Deborah; Jim"		Hoarders
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Commissario				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Due South		Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Gilmore Girls		*Broken Bridges* ★ (2006, Drama) Toby Keith.		
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*The Suspect* (2005, Suspense) Jamie Luner.				Bones		NCIS
	620	523	40	BVO	Ex Machina in Russia		A Bronx Dream		Saturday Night Divas		Altered by Elvis		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Bride, Poor Bride		Nearly Dead	Newlywed	Tori & Dean-Sweet Hollywood		How To Make Love-Wife		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	(6) Dogfights		Greatest Tank Battles		Lost Worlds		Shockwave		Tank Battles
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	The Red Green Story		Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	For Rent	Income Prop.	Marriage	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*The Wood* ★★ (1999, Drama)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		The Game	The Game	*State Property 2* ★★ (2005, Crime Drama) Beanie Sigel.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		*X2: X-Men United* ★★★ (2003, Fantasy) Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman, Ian McKellen.						*Alien Siege*
	581	566	52	MTV	Over the Bolts	After	Cribs	Parent Control	Teen Mom		Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Re-Vamped		Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Flipping Out (N)		Launch My Line (N)		Prod. Parker
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	David Rocco	Restaurant Makeover		Top Chef Masters		Pitchin' In	Glutton	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Husband & I	Wait for God	CBC News: the fifth estate		Unscripted	Archaeologist	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Babar	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case		Missing Spring break.		The Closer		Cold Case		Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:15) *The Longshots*		Sanctuary "Edward"		Tracey Ullman	Tracey Ullman	Secret Diary	Secret Diary	Secret Diary
	305	612	306	PIX	*Jeffrey*	(7:20) *Warrior Spirit* (1994, Adventure)			*A Fish Called Wanda* ★★★ (1988, Comedy), Kevin Kline				*Better Than*
	520	146	-	DISC	Discovery: 15 Years		MythBusters		Man vs. Wild "Texas"		Dirty Jobs "Glass Maker" (N)		Discovery: 15
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	First Class All the Way		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		DU Why	Making It	1st Class Way

critics'corner

Little Mosque on the Prairie
Remember that charity boxing match that the Rev. Thorne tricked Amaar into taking part in? Amaar managed to land a few good punches on Thorne, and he feels terrible about it. He's going to feel worse, though, when he discovers that Thorne is faking his injuries to make him look bad in this new episode. 8:30 PM on CBC

Heroes
As Claire becomes immersed in the world of the carnival, she becomes increasingly suspicious of Samuel's motives. Hiro goes on a mission to rescue one of his own. H.R.G. recruits Matt to help him take down Samuel. Sylar returns to the carnival in search of answers in "Upon This Rock/Let It Bleed." 8 PM on GTV NBC

Accidentally on Purpose
Romantically stranded by her pregnancy, Billie tries to live vicariously through Zack and Davis by giving them relationship advice, but the situation takes an unforeseen turn when the objects of the boys' attention reveal their own intentions in "The Love Guru." 8:30 PM on CBS

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Avatar:** $75 million US
2. **Sherlock Holmes:** $65.4 million
3. **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel:** $50.2 million
4. **It's Complicated:** $22.1 million
5. **Up in the Air:** $11.8 million
6. **The Blind Side:** $11.7 million
7. **The Princess and the Frog:** $8.7 million
8. **Nine:** $5.5 million
9. **Did You Hear About the Morgans?:** $5 million
10. **Invictus:** $4.4 million

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

It's going to be called *Solteras*
Jennifer Aniston has big plans for the new year, and they don't involve acting. "If all goes well I hope to open a Mexican restaurant in New York City in 2010," Aniston tells the Daily Mirror. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Elton John helps Eminem battle drugs

HE WON'T LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON HIM Elton John is there for Eminem, who is battling a drug problem, people.com reports. "I've been helping Eminem over the last 18 months and he's doing brilliantly," John says, reports the British Press Association.

Speaking to BBC Radio 5 in the U.K. on Saturday, John, 62, who has freely spoken about his own past issues with substance abuse, said: "I'm there if people want my help. If people ask for help you tell them where to go but there's no point advising people if they don't want to do it."

In May, Eminem admitted he'd suffered from a devastating drug addiction that led to him downing as many as 20 Vicodin, Ambien and Valium in a day.

"The numbers got so high," he told Vibe magazine, "I don't even know what I was taking."

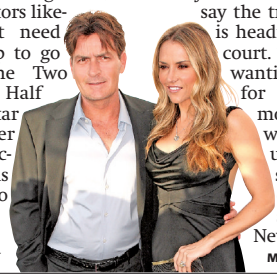
Following his first stint in rehab in 2005, the rapper, 37, said he nearly overdosed after an acquaintance gave him unidentified blue pills, which a doctor later told him were actually methadone.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Attorney: Police won't drop any charges against Sheen

'UH, JUDGE JUDY, THERE'S A GUY NAMED CHARLIE ON LINE ONE...' Brooke Mueller may want to drop the restraining order made against husband Charlie Sheen after their Christmas Morning row, but prosecutors likely don't need her help to go after the Two and a Half Men star since her initial accusations were so serious, defense attorney Roy Black tells Good Morning America.

"There's no question they can proceed without her cooperation because they can use her statements, her 911 call," Black says. Meanwhile, sources say the troubled couple is heading for divorce court. "Brooke's been wanting a divorce for at least two months, but she was holding out until Charlie signed a new contract," a source tells E! News.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Tequila blames pregnancy mis-Tweet on lack of space

PUTTING THE 'TWIT' IN TWITTER Thought Tila Tequila was with child? Blame it on Twitter, usmagazine.com reports. The reality star misspoke — er, mis-Tweeted — when she she announced Dec. 20 that she was pregnant and carrying a surrogate child for her brother and his wife. The pregnancy, she said at the time, was a Christmas gift.

In an interview Dec. 22, Tila explained the apparent mix-up to Us-Magazine.com: "I said I'm going to become a surrogate mother for my brother and his wife. That means I'm going to be pregnant. But the words 'going to be' didn't fit," she explained. (Twitter posts are limited to 140 characters.) "So I said 'I'm pregnant.' I'm not, but I'm going to be."

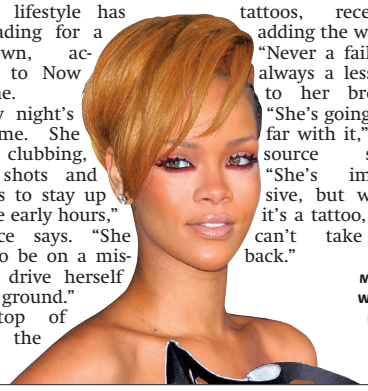
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Rihanna's wild ways starting to worry friends

PARTYING *SO HARD*? Friends are worried that Rihanna's raucous lifestyle has her heading for a breakdown, according to Now Magazine.

"Every night's the same. She goes clubbing, downs shots and manages to stay up until the early hours," a source says. "She seems to be on a mission to drive herself into the ground."

On top of that, the singer seems to be indulging even more in her obsession with tattoos, recently adding the words "Never a failure, always a lesson" to her breast. "She's going too far with it," the source says. "She's impulsive, but when it's a tattoo, you can't take it back."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Was Madonna behind Kate and A-Rod's breakup?

THREE STRIKES, HE'S OUT Kate Hudson ended her eight-month relationship with Alex Rodriguez because of his infatuation with ex Madonna, according to OK! Magazine. The Yankees slugger and the pop star had dated prior to he and Hudson getting together, and Hudson was reportedly irked that Rodriguez was still keeping in touch with his ex.

"Kate was mad with jealousy," a source says. "She gave A-Rod three chances to stop contacting Madonna. She said that if Madonna is what A-Rod wants, then she can have him."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Nick Cannon heads east, Paris Hilton is baffled by the cold weather in Aspen, Jonathan Ross wants to be nicer, and Jane Fonda goes to some interesting parties.

- @NickCannon On my way to China as we speak. Hopefully I can tweet from over there! BOSS UP!
- @ParisHilton It's snowing really heavily on the mountain. I hate skiing in the snow, it's much more fun when it's a bit sunny out. I'm cold :(So brutal.
- @wossy I have decided that one of my New Years Resolutions is to stop scowling at the paparazzi. Wish me luck.
- @Janefonda Sean Penn brought Mickey Avalon to our xmas party. He sang "Do The Jane Fonda" and I danced. Fun!!!

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nordegren rings in new year, birthday in Tiger-free zone

FIRST 'YOU GO GIRL' MOMENT OF THE DECADE Elin Nordegren rang in the new year — and celebrated her 30th birthday — at a lavish ski resort in the French Alps, though husband Tiger Woods was nowhere to be seen, according to the Sun.

Nordegren stayed with her twin sister and five pals at a seven-bedroom, $8,000 a night chalet near the Chamonix resort. "Elin wanted to take her family and close friends away from the minefield Tiger has created by his behavior," a source tells the newspaper.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Roseanne's ex reinvents himself as an anti-addiction crusader

PSEUDO-CELEBRITY REHAB Attention Hollywood socialite drug users: Tom Arnold is here to help. The recovering addict used his power of persuasion to urge actor-socialite Jason Davis to enter rehab this week, RadarOnline.com is reporting.

The True Lies star along with Davis' brother Alexander showed up at an apartment where Jason was staying and staged an emergency intervention on Wednesday.

They convinced Davis he was in danger of losing his life if he didn't quit drugging. He apparently accepted and will enter a rehab facility.

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Today 40% Flurries -6° / -7°

Tuesday Partly sunny -3° / -9°

Wednesday Variable -6° / -12°

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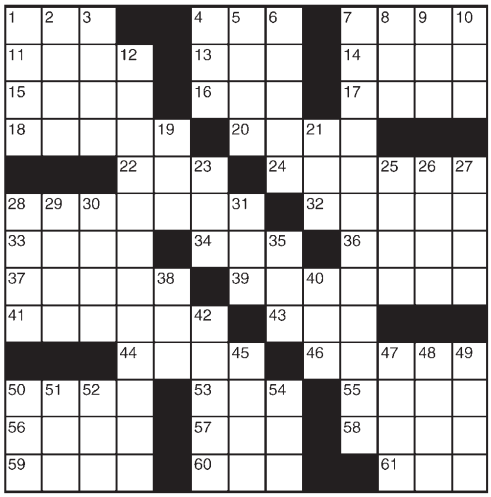
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



ACROSS

1 Peculiar
4 Bikini half
7 Poet Angelou
11 Satirical comic Sahl
13 "— the ramparts ..."
14 Mid-month date
15 Celebrity
16 Witty one
17 Last year's frosh
18 Skewered entree
20 Mineral hardness scale name
22 Apprehend
24 Toy (with)
28 Sheriff
32 Did a cobbler's job
33 Composer Khachaturian
34 Catch some rays
36 Require
37 Stiff
39 Lustrous, in a way
41 Meryl Streep's alma mater
43 Hawaiian garland
44 Overly confident
46 Fake drake
50 New Zealand bird
53 Bow the head
55 Coffee
56 Reverberate
57 Raw rock
58 Mideast sultanate
59 Night light?
60 Fresh
61 Wapiti

DOWN

1 Siberian city
2 Be too fond
3 Colorless
4 Violinist's need
5 Paper quantity
6 Shop talk
7 City in Orange County, Calif.
8 Commotion
9 "Uh-huh"
10 Blond shade
12 Message
19 "Hum-bug!"
21 Storefront sign abbr.
23 Cudgel
25 Run off
26 Ogler's look
27 Vortex
28 Sportscaster Albert
29 Met melody
30 "Before," in an Alger story
31 — Vegas
35 Zero
38 Weir
40 Started
42 Talk nonstop
45 Former veep
47 Arrived
48 Elliptical
49 Tug hard
50 Trivia maven Jennings
51 Lemieux milieu
52 Which person
54 Morning moisture

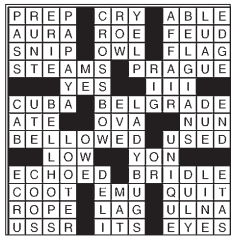
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2						4	7	
	6	5			8			
		8			4	5		
5				9			2	
	8	9				7	6	
	3			5				1
		7	2			6		
			6			3	5	
	5	1						7

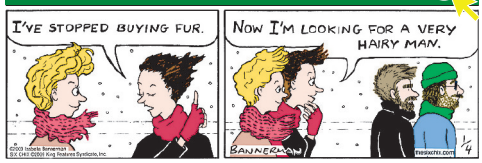
NEW YEAR'S EVE'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



1	7	8	9	5	4	3	6	2
9	3	2	1	6	8	7	4	5
6	5	4	2	7	3	8	9	1
4	1	3	6	9	2	5	7	8
8	2	9	5	3	7	4	1	6
7	6	5	8	4	1	2	3	9
2	9	7	3	8	6	1	5	4
5	4	1	7	2	9	6	8	3
3	8	6	4	1	5	9	2	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Greek-style Pizza

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 mL) olive oil
1 tsp (5 mL) balsamic vinegar
1 small red onion, thinly sliced
1 large ready-made pizza base, or two small pizza bases
3 tbsp (45 mL) sun tomato paste
8 cherry tomatoes, halved
1 3/4 oz (50 g) sun-dried tomatoes in oil, cut into thin slices
12 pitted black or green olives
5 oz (150 g) feta cheese, crumbled

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). Whisk 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and vinegar in bowl, add onion rings and toss to coat. Leave while you prepare remaining ingredients.

2. Spread pizza base with sun-dried tomato paste. Arrange onion rings and cherry tomatoes on top, then scatter with sun-dried tomato slices, olives and feta cheese. Drizzle remaining oil over pizza.

3. Put pizza directly on to top shelf of oven, putting baking sheet on shelf below to catch any drips. Bake 10 minutes or until base is crisp and topping lightly browned. Season with ground black pepper. Cut into wedges and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You should be making plans to do with your work and your career, not only for the next few weeks but for the whole of 2010.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You have fixed opinions about certain issues and what happens in the wider world this coming week will confirm that you are right in your beliefs.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Flattery will get you everywhere today. You will know just the right thing to say to influence important people.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
What you have to say today may be important but not nearly as important as the way you choose to say it.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Common sense should tell you that certain routines and methods don't work as well as they once did and need to be replaced.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Today's Sun-Mercury union will help you make whatever changes you think are necessary in your lifestyle, your career and your relationships.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
It would appear that you have been taken advantage of one time too many and now you intend to turn the tables.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Others may be impressed by your air of self-confidence but what they don't realize is that on the inside you are trembling with fear.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
The cosmos is trying to show you that happiness comes not from having what you want in life but from wanting what you already have.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A Sun-Mercury union in your sign means there is no better time to confront your doubts and fears and break their hold over you.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Fate is pointing you in a certain direction and you have no alternative but to move in that direction, not in the future, but now.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
This is a good day for making plans but it is an even better day for planning things with your friends.

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This day in history

1493: Christopher Columbus leaves the New World, ending his first journey.
1762: England declares war on Spain and Naples.
1847: Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the United States government.
1865: The New York Stock Exchange opens its first permanent headquarters at 10-12 Broad near Wall Street in New York City.
1974: United States President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over materials subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee.
1975: Elizabeth Ann Seton becomes the first American-born saint.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Italian	416-650-1400
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Suite 215 L6V 1C2
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Ajax
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Suite 203, L1S 3M2
905-426-8400

ONCE YOU KNOW, YOU'RE GOOD TO GO

STARTING SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2010, THERE WILL BE CHANGES TO SOME GO BUS SERVICES

12 – NIAGARA FALLS GO BUS

Two new eastbound trips will depart from Niagara Falls at 9:45 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. and connect to Lakeshore train service at Burlington GO Station on weekends and holidays.

Two new westbound trips will depart Burlington at 11:48 a.m. and 9:48 p.m., serve all stops and arrive in Niagara Falls at 1:03 p.m. and 11:03 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

There will be changes to some weekday and weekend trips including earlier departures.

The weekday eastbound 4:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 8:30 trips from Grimsby and the weekday westbound 1:48 a.m. and 8:56, and the 4:34 p.m., 7:08 and 9:48 trips from Burlington GO Station will be discontinued.

20 – MILTON-OAKVILLE GO BUS

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures.

21 – MILTON GO BUS

There are several new trips and changes to some trips including earlier departures.

25 – WATERLOO GO BUS

Six new Friday eastbound trips from the University of Waterloo will run express to Square One GO Bus Terminal. At Square One, there are GO Bus connections to downtown Toronto and Pearson Airport.

Three new westbound trips from Square One will run express to the University of Waterloo on Sundays or holiday Mondays.

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO BUS

Two new eastbound trips will depart Brampton GO Station at 10:50 a.m. and 7:05 p.m., serve Shopper's World, Steeles & Rutherford, the Bramalea and Malton GO Stations, and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 11:45 a.m. and 8:05 p.m.

We're adding 12 new weekend and holiday trips between Brampton GO Station and Union Station.

There are changes to some existing trips including later departures from the University of Guelph and the Guelph Bus Terminal.

34 – BRAMPTON HWY. 427 GO BUS

There will be changes to some trips including earlier departures, and all trips will now also serve the Bramalea GO Station.

The weekday eastbound 5:45, 6:50, and 7:22 a.m. trips from Bramalea City Centre and the weekday westbound 3:20 and 4:50 p.m. trips from York Mills will be discontinued.

40 – SQUARE ONE-PEARSON-RICHMOND HILL CENTRE GO BUS

Service between Square One GO Bus Terminal and Pearson Airport will now be hourly.

52 – HWY. 407 EAST GO BUS

The 10:30 and 11:30 p.m. trips from York University with stops at Langstaff, Unionville, Centennial, Markham and Mount Joy GO Stations, will be discontinued.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO BUS

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Aurora GO Station at 8:35 a.m., serve the Aurora Rd. and Hwy. 404 Carpool Lot at 8:40, and arrive at the Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 9:30 a.m.

66 – NEWMARKET-HWY. 400 GO BUS

There are changes to some trips including earlier departures. Some trips have been discontinued so be sure to check the new schedule.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO BUS

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Unionville GO Station at 9:25 a.m. and run express to Union Station GO Bus Terminal arriving at 10:00 a.m.

A new weekday southbound trip will depart Lincolnville GO Station at 12:30 p.m., serve the Stouffville, Mount Joy, Markham, Centennial and Unionville GO Stations, and arrive at Union at 1:40 p.m.

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